Ore no Imōto ga Konna ni Kawaii Wake ga Nai Volume 10

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These are novel illustrations that were included in Volume 10

俺の妹がこんなに可愛いわけがない⑩

あのバカがしばらく一人暮らしをすることになった。受験勉強に集中するためってのと、あとひとつ、お母さんが最近あたしと京介の仲がよすぎることを変に疑ってるらしい……。あたしと京介がそんな関係に——なんて、あるわけないじゃん！

で、まあ、責任の一端は、ちょっとだけあたしに……あるみたいだし、あいつもどうせコンビニのお弁当とかばっか食べそうだし、仕方ないから、あたしが面倒見てあげようかと思ったんだけど……。

ちょっとあんたたち、なに勝手に京介の家で引越し祝いパーティ開こうとしてんの!? 発案者の地味子はいいとして、黒いのに沙織に、あやせに……加奈子まで！ ていうか、あんたたち知り合いだったの!? えっ？ 地味子と仲直り？ そんなのあとあと！ あーもー、ひなちゃんは言うこと聞かないし！ こんなんじゃ京介が勉強に集中できないじゃん！

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俺の妹がこんなに可愛いわけがない⑩
伏見つかさ
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伏見つかさ

写真は、台湾のサイン会でいただいた美琴コスの桐乃です。俺の妹ポータブルで『とある魔術の禁書目録』とコラボしたときの衣装ですね。続編では『魔法少女まどか☆マギカ』とコラボするそうなので、今回の衣装も楽しみ。

【電撃文庫作品】
十三番目のアリス①～④
俺の妹がこんなに可愛いわけがない①～⑩
ねこシス

イラスト:かんざきひろ

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俺の妹がこんなに可愛いわけがない

ore no imouto ga konnani kawaii wake ga nai

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Tsukasa Fushimi
伏見つかさ
Illustration: かんざきひろ

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Tsukasa Fushimi
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Chapter 1

第一章

It is now October, autumn, there is half a year until my graduation.

Right now, my house is holding a family meeting.

We were eating at the dinner table. Everyone in the Kousaka household was present - in other words: me, my little sister, Mom and Dad.

Just like usual, I sat next to Kirino while my parents sat in front of us with a serious expression.

Then Mom started with a topic that made me yell in surprise -----

"…Kyousuke, you…have you done something strange to Kirino?"

"Pfffff."

"Ha? Ha!?"

Hearing that totally unexpected topic, both Kirino and I were caught off guard.

"Mom? What did you just say?"

"I asked if you have done something strange to Kirino.
"

"What do you mean by 'strange'?"

"Yes! Strange means strange things!!"

Give me a good answer! You really are Kirino's mother!

"That…in other words…You are thinking that I have done some erotic things to Kirino?"

"Cough cough cough!"

Next to me, Kirino choked.

Well…her reaction is understandable.

Seeing my reaction, Mom's eyes suddenly became sharper.

"I didn't mean it like that, but since that's the first thing that came to your mind, so it seems….."

"It is impossible!"

Kirino regained her breathing and said.

"How could it be!? Mom, how could you make that impossible misunderstanding! Ah! Ahhhhhhh! Me and Kyousuke….in that situation…it's impossible!"

"That's it!"

Mom seemed like she caught a weak point and pointed at Kirino.

"Yes?"

"You just called him 'Kyousuke'. In the past you only called him 'Hey' or 'You'. Why did you call him by name ?"

…..True, I don't know since when but she had started calling me 'Kyousuke'. Still, there was nothing bad about Kirino calling me by name, so I unconsciously accepted that as something natural. It's not like I wanted to be called 'You' or 'Hey'.

Her weak point was caught and Kirino looked very troubled.

"About that --- I had a change of heart."

"Change of heart huh?"

"An, anyway - it's not like that!"

She looked like she was about to die.

Maybe from Kirino's point of view, being together with me …… is a very bad misunderstanding.

"Also, your relationship had become better than before ."

"Isn't that a good thing?"

Yes, just like that. Keep talking about 'cherish my little sister' and 'get along better with my little sister' until this topic is over.

"It has gotten too close."

Mom said so.

"Your relationship was bad - but now you often go to each other's rooms and go out together during weekends. "

We went to each other's room mostly to force an eroge in my hands or to return an eroge to Kirino. And we mostly went to Kuroneko's home during weekends.

"When Kirino brought Mikagami home, Kyousuke… your reaction….is that a normal reaction toward 'my little sister's boyfriend'?"

…At that time, I had done something both shameful and stupid. I still remember what I did, so I couldn't say anything back.

"…But that's only a fake boyfriend…"

"At that time, you didn't know it. Yet you still overreacted and had a bad attitude."

…Well…I did.

No, no. It was because of a misunderstanding! So wait a second, Mom. Where is your common sense? How could you pair up your own son and daughter?

Then Mom delivered her finishing blow.

"A while ago, you even came back home in what looked like wedding clothes!"

"So that's the main reason!!"

"So that's the main reason!!"

Both of us yelled out at the same time.

Damn it! Because it was such a black history[1], I already removed it from my memory.

That's right. A month ago, because of an unforeseeable problem, I went to a concert with my little sister while both us were wearing wedding clothes.

That day, when we came back home - we looked like we were cosplaying as a pair of newlyweds (actually, at that point I could barely be considered a groom). When Mom opened the door for us, she looked at the sky and massaged her forehead…that reaction was understandable.

"It's not like that! There is a reason for that! I told you that already!"

"You had received a call from Misaki-san, right?"

"A reason for that…huh? Then there is another reason for holding your hands together like lovers?"

……

"Did we do that?"

"Don't ask me!"

Maybe we did? It had been too long, I didn't remember much!

"And --- this!"

"Ah! This…this!"

Mom showed us the photo sticker that I took together with Kirino.

….Yup, this could surely cause a misunderstanding.

"Mom! How could you have that…!?"

"Why couldn't I? It was stuck on the refrigerator."

"……"

Since I was the one who stuck it there…it's not good for me….

"You idiot! I told you to get rid of it….!"

Kirino's face turned bright red and she head-butted me . It hurt so much!

"Anyway ---- recently, your behavior is way too suspicious. The neighbors are talking about it too."

….That was because of you Mom. You were the one who was gossiping with them!

Thanks to you, they knew almost everything about our house, like how we bought a computer for the first time and a whole lot of other stuff.

Anyway….

Mom probably pieced together those fragmented stories between me and Kirino, and made an assumption about our 'abnormally good' relationship - what an unbelievable misunderstanding!

Because of that, it turned into this family meeting.

What should I say now?

About the fact that I came home in wedding clothes, I couldn't deny that I had my fair share of responsibility. But between me and Kirino…it was too much.

"It's impossible."

"Mom, you are wrong."

Both of us kept trying to explain.

Then I turned to Dad, who had stayed silent from the beginning.

"Dad, say something please!"

Dad made a 'don't pass the ball to me now' expression then sighed and said:

"I'm not worried about the situation that your mother just talked about. I'm the one who understands what is going on between you and Kirino better than anyone. For you to cherish each other so much is within my expectations."

Dad, you are making it worse!

My face was gradually getting redder, my throat seemed like it was blocked.

"……"

No, no, don't say something so embarrassing! I'm embarrassed!

….I didn't even know why Dad spoke so highly of me ----- no, it’s probably because I was the one who brought Kirino back from America.

It's natural for a doting elder brother to take care of his little sister.

Now, I could say it without hesitation.

Still, Dad wasn't the type to just praise someone that easily.

"Kyousuke. Think back to about a year ago."

"A year ago?"

"Yes, about Kirino's - no, your hobby, we talked about it before."

"….."

Kirino's hobby – you mean the 'little sister based eroge'? When you caught her?

At that time, I insisted that it was my hobby.

"EROGE IS MY SOUL!!!!!!!"

I said something that unbelievable.

I immediately noticed what Dad wanted to tell me without voicing it out.

Mom is very sensitive; this must be the main reason that she suspected my relationship with Kirino.

One year ago, Dad believed me and let Kirino's strange hobby off. However, because my situation with Kirino is the same as in those eroges….

It's understandable that after I played little sister based eroge they thought I had developed real feelings toward my real little sister.

For my parents, when they noticed this, it must have sounded like an alarm to them.

Although I think it's impossible for anything to happen between us, Mom and Dad might not think so.

I finally understood the real reason of this family meeting.

"….I understand."

Choosing my words carefully, I said:

"Mom, Dad, you worry too much. I promise you that Kirino and I only have a normal relationship. Kirino probably agrees too."

I looked at Kirino and noticed she seemed to be in a panic.

"Of…of course!"

She immediately turned her head away after saying that, which means she treated me with the same attitude as before. Seeing that cold reaction, Mom's concern should be eased a little.

I secretly took a look at Mom's unhappy face.

"Oh, oh….So…that's all."

"Although I understand what you two are trying to say, I still can't believe it."

"Mom, don't say that!"

So what exactly did you want us to do?

"If you two could get a boyfriend and girlfriend, I could rest assured…."

"……."

"……."

Both Kirino and I stayed silent.

It isn't like we don't understand what you are saying, but it's not something that can be done so easily.

Why did we have to endure this?

"Kyousuke, what do you think about Manami-chan?"

"I told you already, there is nothing between us."

"Ha….."

I looked back at Mom.

"As for Kirino, we couldn't do the same to her. It seems that we have no other choice."

"….And that is?"

Although I suddenly got a bad feeling, I still had to ask .

It wasn't Mom but Dad who answered me. He sighed and said:

"Kyousuke, you are going to move out."

…….

"……Ha?"

"What is the meaning of this, Dad!?"

While I was distracted for a moment, Kirino asked in my stead.

"After listening to you, that's our decision. One of my friends has an apartment with an empty room. It's also very close to the university that Kyousuke applied to. Consider this is a chance to get used to it."

"What does that mean….Are you going to kick Kyousuke out of the house?"

Dad ignored Kirino's question and looked at me with meaningful eyes.

"Kyousuke --- at the beginning of November, there is a mock exam at the university that you applied to."

"Yes, so?"

I applied with Manami.

"Go get an A. If you can do that, you can return here."

I didn't know how to feel about this decision.

Let me think about it for a moment.

In other words, this time, Dad kicked me out of the house with a condition.

What a useless decision. Even if there was something going on between Kirino and me that worried my parents, that decision couldn't fix the root of the problem.

Um….I will have a mock exam at the beginning of November, and I will probably have to wait a month until the results come out.

In other words, if I could get an A, I only have to live alone for two months before I could go back home.

Is Dad okay with it? Or even he think that this is an useless decision?

Well…I'm more worried if he had another intention in mind.

Still, they had made their decision. Although I was a bit uncomfortable with it, but staying here and talking about it won't help.

---- If I think about it carefully, it might be a good opportunity.

"Got it, I only need to get an A, right?"

"Yes, it is fine as long as you get a good result. What do you think, Mom?"

"Hm, it's fine then. Listen well, Kyousuke. This is for your own good. Focus on your studies, okay?"

Ahh…you talked too much….

Everyone should understand my Mom's feelings right?

I took a peek at Kirino in silence.

Kirino had a displeased expression, she looked away from me.

She must felt unhappy because of this misunderstanding and partly guilty because I was kicked out of the house.

I told her in my brightest voice:

"Just wait, I will get an A and come back in a flash."

"You seem very confident Kyousuke."

Dad smiled.

You didn't trust me that much, did you?

"Leave it to me."

I fearlessly answered back, but next to me, Kirino had a clearly unhappy expression.

"…What's with you, Kirino?"

"…It's nothing."

"I have to focus on studying, but I will come back soon . Do you have something to say against that?"

"Ha, you sound so energetic. Don't you see that you look like an idiot?"

….Did you hear what she just said?

I was a fool to think that you felt guilty!

While I was upset, Kirino stood up and dealt another blow:

"See ya ~ Bye-bye ~ It's okay if you don't come back."

The next day, after school, I was lying down on my bed and looking at the celling, thinking about my future.

"…Living alone huh."

After I entered university, I would have to live alone - I did consider that chance before.

However, it didn't change the fact of how much this decision affected me.

A high school student could probably understand my feelings now.

Still, at least for now I still had my parent's supports.

Dad said that staying alone would help me focus on studying.

"It's not too bad…"

Thinking back, this was probably the first time since I was born that my parents interfered with my life.

I thought that my parents were all 'Kirino Kirino Kirino Kirino', and didn't give a damn about the useless and talentless me.

But from this decision, maybe it isn't like that.

If they only wanted to separate me from Kirino they could just force me in a separate room only for studying without the need to kick me out of the house. Thinking back on it all, their unreasonable decision made me a little mad but they had really put a lot of thought into it.

They may have thought a lot about it but that doesn't mean I'm okay with it.

------- *See ya ~ Bye-bye ~ It's okay if you don't come back.*

After I move out, I won't have to see my little sister's annoying face again.

Although….I wanted to come back as soon as possible

Thinking about living alone made me feel interested.

However…

"…Somehow…I feel nervous too…"

I didn't know the cause nor did I want to solve this problem. But it still troubled me.

I kept thinking randomly until someone knocked on the door.

"Yes?"

"Kyousuke ~ Mikagami-san came to see you."

It was Mom.

"Mikagami?"

I suddenly got up, fully awake.

There should be a reason for Mikagami to come to my home.

"I'm coming~!"

I rushed outside and ran to the front door. Mikagami was waiting there.

"Nice to see you, Kyousuke-kun. You look great today."

So annoying! Do you want to see me suffer?

He is Mikagami Kouki. A handsome designer.

"Sorry, please wait while I go get your car."

"Car?"

"I meant bicycle. The Meruru itasha bicycle that I borrowed from you."

"…Ah…well, to tell the truth, I was about to give it to you."

"I have no need for it! Take it back immediately!"

I refused with all my might.

For a personal reason, I had to borrow Mikagami's itasha bicycle. To tell the truth, it wasn't ugly or anything. It was way past a normal itasha's level. There was a very large image of a loli on it.

He even called it 'Shooting Star'.

….For something that should never have existed, I didn't want to ride it a second time.

Mikagami smiled:

"You said that you hate it, but you were on a high while riding it."

"Now is not the time to speak about what I felt when I rode it!"

"I see, so you were enjoying your little sister's punishment game back then."

"….Ha."

So annoying.

"Anyway, thanks to that, we could make it there in time for the live performance."

"It's good that my 'Shooting Star' could contribute to the love between you two."

His words were too easy to misunderstood.

"So, if you are not here to take back your bicycle, then why?"

"To joke around with you of course."

Hearing that, I immediately made an unwilling expression.

"Go ask the game research club or something. I already introduced them to you!"

"You are so cold. If I do that, our relationship will get weaker."

I think it's better this way.

…Oh right, I could ask for his opinions about living alone too.

"Fine, let's have a talk then."

I didn't expect any useful tips; I just wanted to hear other people's opinions before making my own.

"----------"

Upon hearing my request, Mikagami's eyes shot open in shock.

Then he talked to me in a tone I had never heard before.

"…If you wanted to ask 'how can I marry my little sister', then my conclusion is to just 'go for it'."

"Don't say that right in front of my house, goddamn it!"

What should I do if Mom heard that! She will immediately kick me out of the house forever!

"Kyousuke!"

"Ya!!!"

Mom's voice came from behind me.

"Don't just stand there, come inside."

So dangerous…if Mom was few seconds earlier she would have heard Mikagami's idiotic comment.

"Hey Mikagami, let's go inside."

A few minutes later, I told Mikagami about 'how Mom misunderstood my relationship with Kirino and forced me to live alone outside'. He just smiled without saying anything.

After a moment he said,

"…I see. So you must feel a little lost right?"

"….How could you know?"

"You aren’t exactly lost - but rather you are paying attention to trivial stuff. You are not honest with yourself , so you will definitely not admit it. However, I have to say it; you feel troubled because you don't want to leave your dear Kirino's side."

"It's not like that!!"

In short, the answers I received from everyone were all nonsense.

"In order to become one with your little sister, your parent's reaction is a tough challenge for both of you."

"…Are you listening to me?"

Why did you make the base assumption that I wanted to marry my little sister?

"Of course I'm listening. I think that you are too anxious right now. Do you think that your choices are that limited?"

Limited choices? Did you think of something?

"Well…maybe that's because my body does not feel very well."

With a mountain of problems, I was lost. Not to mention that I didn't even know why I felt like this.

So he meant that I shouldn't and couldn't worry about it?

"You have good intentions, but sometime it's better to stop, right? That's my advice for you - don't pay too much attention to those trivial matters. Look, the weather is nice today."

Just like an End CG of an eroge, Mikagami opened his arms wide and looked at the sky.

"During this time of trouble, it's best that you forget everything else and play some eroge in your room. Using an optical mouse to play, make sure to set the screen so it is visible from the bed so that you can lie down and play with the little sisters. By throwing away your worries you might be able to come up with a solution. Even if you can't, the time you spend playing won't be a waste."

….Although he is weird, he is a good guy.

"…Thank you Mikagami. I feel better now."

"You are welcome."

He laughed.

Seeing his smile, I laughed too….So, did we become friends?

I'm not sure myself.

"So, please take back your bicycle."

I went outside to get 'Shooting Star' for him. However, I met someone else while out there.

"Aha? Isn't that Akagi?"

"Oh! Kousaka!"

The one who was waving his hand to me is Akagi Kouhei, one of my classmates and my friend. He is a member of the football team and a doting brother for a fujoshi little sister.

Akagi pointed at Mikagami:

"Who is he?"

"The owner of this bicycle."

"What an unbelievable pervert."

Seeing 'Shooting Star', Akagi made an expression that he understood and immediately made some distance between himself and Mikagami. Noticing that, Mikagami rubbed the back of his head.

"Ahhhhh~~"

Don't get embarrassed!

"My name is Mikagami Kouki, I'm a friend of Kyousuke."

"This pervert is your friend? Kyousuke, you don't have any standards do you?"

"You aren't in a position to tell me that."

You hid in your little sister's wardrobe. You wanted to buy a sex doll that looked like peakyour little sister - compared to Mikagami, you are a perverted siscon!

Ah, I forgot. I'm the only one here that knew both sides….I should introduce them.

"Mikagami, let me introduce you, this guy is Akagi Kouhei."

"Pleased to meet you, Akagi-san."

With the introductions done I turned to Akagi.

"Say Akagi, why are you here?"

"I want to get a photo from you."

"What photo?"

"That photo!"

What exactly are you talking about?

"The photo of Sena kissing me --------"

"Ah…that….I already deleted it."

"Kousakaaaaaaaaa!!"

Don't hold my neck, damn it!

"It's because your little sister told me to do it!"

"What she actually meant was 'eheehee, please don't delete it and quietly pass it to my brother'. How could you fail to grasp such a basic hint?"

"Ah, sorry, sorry. So if that's all, please go back to your home."

"You bastard! I still have something to ask you!"

"Ah?"

"Recently, you tried your damn best to deny that every girl in our class acts cold toward you."

"I was about to forget it, but thanks to you, now I want to die."

"Ah, sorry. So in order to cheer you up, let's talk about something interesting."

"Thank you very much - I am so lucky to have such wonderful friend (emotionless voice) - did you expect me to say that?"

"Of course we are going to talk about 'how cute my little sister is'."

"I knew it! I have already heard too much of it!"

"That's right, yesterday, Sena was so cute…."

"You only wanted to say it didn't you! Stop immediately!"

I hastily criticized Akagi before he could start the speech about his little sister.

Recently, in order to cheer me up, he has told me a lot of stories about Sena.

I was happy because my friend worried about me, but there should be a limit to it.

"There is no need to be shy. Today I will tell you a special story about Sena's breasts."

"Then if you feel down, I will cheer you up by talking about Kirino's ass for three hours straight!"

"Do you think I care for someone's little sister's ass?"

"Look at yourself! Reflect on what you just said!"

"….I can't help but smile when seeing this."

Mikagami told us while smiling:

"Still, we should go somewhere else. If Yoshino-san heard the conversation just now, Kyousuke-kun will be kicked out of this house forever."

"….I agree."

Although I hate to admit it, he was right.

By the way, Yoshino is my Mom's name.

"Hm? What do you mean by being kicked out?"

Akagi tilted his head. Mikagami explained to him in my stead.

"It's about Kyousuke-kun's little sister. He was having a problem regarding this. We just talked about it before."

"Hey! There is no need to be shy Kousaka. If you need to talk about little sisters, then it's my turn to take the stage!"

"….You two should have just gone back…."

Mikagami, please refrain from using such misleading words.

"So…what exactly do you mean by 'problem regarding little sister'?"

"Let's talk about it later."

How could I say that to this guy

"I told you there is no need to be shy."

"Let's go somewhere else first."

"Uhm."

…Those two really don't want to go back.

Then Akagi asked:

"So, where are we going?"

Mikagami said:

"There is a tea restaurant nearby, how about that?"

"Hey! Don't change the topic! Think about this bicycle and me for a second!"

Thanks to the illustrations on the wheels, everyone on the street was focusing on me!

There is no way I could go to my apartment at this rate!

Akagi took a look at the crazy 'Shooting Star'.

"Kousaka, please don't walk too close to me. Keep your distance."

"Aren't we friends, damn it!"

"It is another matter. In short, that bicycle is too much."

How could you say something so heartless!?

I gave up on the heartless Akagi and turned to the other side:

"Say, Mikagami, although it's not fair to say it after I borrowed this from you, but can you take care of it for a while?"

"Since we already came this far, how about we both hop on it?"

"Allow me to refuse!"

Why am I surrounded by crazy perverted guys?

While I was still angry, Mikagami suddenly made a suggestion:

"That's right. Kyousuke-kun, Kouhei-kun, do you want to come to my house?"

"Your house? Is it nearby?"

"Yes. The truth is, I am already living alone. Kyousuke-kun, how about you come to my house and hear some of my suggestions about living by yourself?"

"…Umm."

"Hey Kousaka, what is with all this 'living all by yourself' stuff?"

"Didn't I tell you that I will explain everything later?"

I thought about Mikagami's suggestion. It wasn't a bad choice asking him for tips. If I heard something interesting, maybe I would feel better.

"What do you think? You are welcome to come."

Mikagami smiled at us.

"Is this okay? --- What do you think Akagi?"

"Of course I'm going. How could I give up halfway?"

"Then let's go."

So, the three of us started moving.

Although we would probably talk about how to live alone, but well….lets consider it a small party then.

While we were moving, I told Akagi about what I had been talking with Mikagami earlier.

"Kousaka has to live alone - so you wanted to give him an experience in your house."

"Yes…there are some things I wanted to ask."

"That's nice - I wanted to move out too!"

"Akagi, wouldn't you mind if it became an obstacle for your relationship with your little sister?"

"You are right! What a difficult problem!"

I was joking. There is no need to be worried for real.

"I think that I could become good friends with Kouhei-kun."

From some other point of view, you two are the same kind of people.

"But to think that you had already lived alone…. Mikagami-kun isn't it…You are really cool!"

"It's nothing big. Please just call me Kouki."

"I don't like to call other guys by name, so let's just stick to Mikagami."

While they were chatting, we had arrived.

" ---- Come, this is my house."

From the very big windows, I could see that this apartment had a very gorgeous building entrance and a spiral staircase.

We took the elevator to the 25th floor (we left the ' Shooting Star' at a safe location) and came to Mikagami's house.

"….Say, Kousaka, I think that we have come to a super-incredible place…"

"…I get the same feeling."

Both Akagi and I had never been to such a luxurious apartment, so we became silent.

…Saori's apartment is also very nice, but this was on a higher level.

"Please come in."

We entered.

Right in front of us was a sex doll.

"What is that!!!!!?"

Both Akagi and I screamed in shock.

Seeing this, Mikagami titled his head:

"Well…this is…art?"

"Don't answer in such oblivious manner!"

I punched him in the gut.

"Mikagami…so you are also a heartless person…"

Holding his stomach in pain, he said:

"Is something wrong? I just felt that this doll had a great design with a clear emotion expression, so I bought it from Akihabara. When I design things, I often use it as a reference for a female's body.

"Ack…."

I had no idea if Mikagami was telling the truth… whether he bought this doll for an erotic reason or not…. But from the fact that he placed it in a glass cabinet, he was probably telling the truth….

"What are you hesitating for Kousaka! Did you believe in such an obvious lie? This guy must be an eroge god!"

"Normally I would have to agree, but this guy has an abnormal love toward 2D little sisters."

"He suits you very well…."

"I can't let that slide! Don't lump me together with this pervert!" I said as I pointed at Mikagami.

"Yes, that's right. Someone at my level couldn't even hope to catch Kyousuke-kun's heels."

"Stay quiet, damn it!"

We only talked about how much of a pervert you are. You just said that I'm a bigger pervert!

"Haha --- I have seen something incredible right at the entrance, but leaving my guests here doesn't seem right, so please come in."

"……."

Akagi and I looked at each other and communicated with our eyes.

(What should we do next Kousaka? We don't know what else might be inside!)

(But we can't just say goodbye and run. As men, we will face death when our time comes.)

(…In just a year, you have become so brave.)

"Sorry for the intrusion ~"

"Sorry for the intrusion ~"

Both Akagi and I entered the room.

After a short corridor, there were four doors in front of us. We realized that two of them were the bathroom and toilet. Mikagami opened the left door of the two remaining and said:

"In here please."

"Right, right."

"This place looks very clean."

We voiced our opinions.

This is the living room. It was fourteen tatami mats large, with the main colors being black and silver. There is another glass cabinet over there which held Mikagami's designs.

"Hey, Mikagami…."

"What do you think, Kyousuke-kun?"

"There is no way I could get any useful references in this place!"

This place is way too high class. It's not somewhere a high school student could live.

"Really? I don't think it's that expensive. Besides, it's still inside Chiba."

"True, it's an advantage to live inside Chiba…by the way, how much for this room?"

"Rental fee? If I count both parking and public fees then it's about ¥532 000.[2]"

It is way too much!

"I got it already. We are not talking in the same language."

Akagi tried to cheer me up.

"It is a rare chance; let's go take a look at this ¥532 000 room."

Akagi kept walking inside.

"Wow. It's worthy of being called high class."

"Ha ha, what do you think Kyousuke-kun?"

"There is no way I have this much money."

I told him that.

"But there are many advantages."

"I see. Then tell me about it later."

"Of course, leave it to me."

I took another look at the living room. There was a leather sofa and a glass table. There was a 60 inch LCD TV on the wall with speakers on the sides and a

subwoofer nearby. There was also something behind the sofa; could it be the legendary 5.1 sound system ?

"Wow. Nice room."

"Ah! Did I see him at a World Cup?"

Hearing Akagi's voice, I turned to him and noticed that there was a blond man resting on the sofa.

"Wow!"

We let out a surprised yell. Since he was out of sight from the beginning, we only noticed him now. He wasn't asleep, just looking at us while lying down.

"…Who are you?"

His voice was low but attractive.

"Oh ----"

Before we could answer, Mikagami stepped forward.

"Ah, brother, what are you doing here?"

---- Mikagami's elder brother ---- right, he told me about his brother at Summer Comiket.

"….Cough…So Kouki…are these your guests?"

"Yes."

"I see."

He spoke like he just woke up from a nap.

Mikagami's brother looked like he is in bad shape. His skin was very white, a few stray black hairs, black eyes, and black and white clothes like a modern vampire…. To tell the truth, he reminded me of an assassin.

As if he could read my thoughts, Mikagami's brother's eyes sharpened and looked at me.

---- Wow, what a terrifying gaze.

But he asked me in a penetrating voice:

"…Coffee or tea….what would you prefer?"

"Wha?"

"I'm going to….make."

"I want tea."

"Me too."

"…Is hot okay with you?"

"No problem."

"Thank you."

"…Wait here."

Mikagami's brother didn't sound very enthusiastic, but he immediately got to work. Although his gaze was scary , it didn’t look like he was scary.

"Looks like we forgot to introduce ourselves." Akagi said.

"You can do it later. Come on, sit down."

We sat down on the sofa. Before Mikagami's brother came back, there was something I wanted to ask.

"Is this place really your house?"

Mikagami sat down next to me.

"No, my home is in Kansai. Because of my work, I often had to go abroad. Hiring a room every time I come to Tokyo is a waste of money, so I accepted my brother's suggestion."

"Oh…so you two….stay here together….?"

"What about --- those earrings and accessories?"

Akagi pointed at the glass cabinet.

"I made them myself. Looks good doesn't it?"

"So…about the pile of them in here….I saw some weird things…."

"I made them all myself."

"….Is your brother an otaku?"

"No, he isn't."

"Then you have done too much."

Just like Akagi said.

Your brother invited you to live here, but you turned the room into this.

At least don't leave those otaku things in the open!

"Could it be…just now, your brother's unpleasantness wasn't aimed towards us…."

"But rather to his younger sibling?"

I don't know since when, but Mikagami's brother had returned with tea. He placed our cups down and said:

"He was spending time playing eroge in his room, making weird stuff by himself…Are you the same? Are you otaku friends of his?"

"No we are not!"

"No we are not!"

Both of us denied immediately.

Mikagami smiled:

"Don't say something so cruel brother. I think that everyone needs a hobby as long as they are breathing.

You like to hang out at family cinemas and listen to music, and I like beautiful girls - what is so wrong about it?"

"A while ago, when I brought a girl home, she immediately ran away after passing the entrance."

"Oh! Why?"

Because she saw that life-size doll. What girl would not run away after seeing that?

"This was all because of you! I just looked away for a second and you had already placed that right at the entrance! Do you want to scare everyone away?"

"Ah! Cheer up brother! It's good that you don't end up with a girl who is unable to understand art!"

"How many girls can understand your art? How many girls are in this world that will not run away after seeing that doll?"

"Don't strangle me……."

He reaps what he sows, so we both had no intention of stopping his brother.

He was even worse than Kirino, who spread my porn collection and put eroge on my laptop as a trap.

Mikagami's brother! Good work! Keep going!

"Akagi, this tea is good…"

"You are right…."

"Hey, why are you two not helping me?"

"This is your fault."

"Your fault."

"Please don't say that --------."

"…Ha…."

After a while, Mikagami's brother released him and sighed:

"Listen to me. I could accept what you made in the cabinet. But please, remove that almost naked doll at the entrance!"

I was thinking the same, and Mikagami said:

"Since one of my friends asked, I will give it to him later."

"You don't have any decent friends left!"

"Is it a member of the game research club?" I suddenly asked:

"Yes. Ma-kun asked me to make an ero-figure of a character."

Ma…? Ah, he meant Makabe-kun….so despite his looks his real self was a pervert.

"Makabe? You mean the guy that always talked with Sena? Hm ~ I got it; he is a perverted ero lover."

In an instant, Makabe's image in Akagi's eyes shattered….

Then Mikagami pointed at a twin-tailed figure:

"Makabe gave it to me as a reference. Since it was so unnatural, I'm trying to make something better. He would be very happy."

"He would probably be angry --- he likes big breasted girls."

"What? But loli is much better!"

Mikagami didn't seem to understand. Makabe didn't seem like he hates lolis, but….he seemed to prefer big breasts though.

"So…2D loli lover Mikagami and Makabe-kun, it doesn't seem like they could understand each other…."

"…..From your conversation just now, that Makabe guy seemed to like working with Sena. There is no way I could forgive it!"

Once more, Makabe's image in Akagi's eyes was destroyed….

Looks like we should stop talking about it.

"So…."

If I continued, Akagi's favor points towards Makabe would drop to negative infinity, so I changed the topic.

"Anyway, Mikagami, you should pay more attention to where you put your stuff. Your brother already allows you to live here for free…"

"Even if you say that, my room is already full."

What the heck? Did you room turn into a storage room just like Kirino's?

I couldn't imagine it….

Anyway, you should think about your brother's situation too.

"I think that just placing that love doll at the entrance is already a serious fault….you shouldn't complain if he decided to kill you…"

"So, if you think about it, your brother is very gentle." Akagi added.

"…Well…"

With a blank voice, Mikagami's brother sat down on the sofa.

"Still, recently I'm the one who pays the rental fees for this room." said Mikagami.

"Really?"

"Yes."

If that is the case, then the freeloader is Mikagami's brother. Then at least you could cover the doll up with some clothes.

Although it wasn't my business, if Mikagami's brother could pay the rental fees by himself than he could gain at least some control over this situation.

"…This is impossible…."

Mikagami's brother looked at us:

"I have no money."

……

Wa wah wah…..

"Sorry, may I ask what your job is?"

"…Ah."

Mikagami's brother counted on his finger.

"Ah…I play the guitar."

Oh, a guitar player huh?

"I can cook."

A guitarist and a cook?

"I date girls."

Ha?

"I got money from those girls."

…..You are so evil.

How could it be…Mikagami's brother looked like a Casanova…

"However….because of my stupid brother I couldn't get a good job."

Sorry, but this couldn't count as a job!

In that case, even if this room was packed full of otaku stuff, you didn't have any reason to be angry….

Because you don't pay even a single cent…

Actually….because of that love doll, every girl that Mikagami's brother managed to catch was scared away, thus leading to his inability to earn money…I think that Mikagami did a good job.

"Come on, let's go to my room."

"Okay."

We walked past Mikagami's brother. So he is actually a NEET. At first glance, he is quite handsome, but turned out he is not any good…..Although the current me has no right to say that….

However….seeing the younger sibling take care of his elder brother….

Why am I feeling restless?

Mikagami's room, in short, was an 'otaku room'. There was a cabinet full of eroge CD's and illustrations with a variety of others weird things. There were even some accessories, decorations and bracelets piled up in a corner.

"Take a look. If you press this button, the light inside will be activated it will become much better!"

Mikagami pressed a button, immediately some LED's emitted bright light. This scene looked absolutely beyond imagination….

What a scared breast….

"Wow!....Amazing!"

Even the uninterested Akagi showed his admiration.

Looking at this, I asked Mikagami:

"It was so different --- compared to this, Kirino's stuff couldn't even count as amateur rank. By the way, how much is it?"

"¥97 000.[3] Ah, this is only the price of the cabinet."

"It's too expensive!"

I really couldn't afford it….

"…Kousaka, from your reaction just now…Do you plan to buy one?"

"No…I don't plan to buy one for myself."

"Ha?"

"That's all. Stop talking about it!"

This room was ten tatami mats large, with a bed, table, bookshelf and other assorted stuff.

His room wasn't like Kirino's or Saori's standard otaku room.

No…Otaku is a creature with special and unique characteristics. There is no such thing as a 'normal otaku standard'.

Mikagami opened his arm wide and spoke in confidence:

"This is my pride - my room! So is this any help for you when you will be living alone?"

"Ah, well, it did become a reference."

With a negative connotation! I will definitely not have such an otaku room!

Still, aside from that, this room is a good place for studies. I still had lots of questions for Mikagami-senpai regarding 'living alone'.

I sat down on a cushion:

"So, what do you need in order to live alone, Mikagami?"

"First, a cute little sister is absolutely necessary."

"Get back to your eroge, you idiot!"

Because this is his home, my words were harsher than usual.

Next to me, Akagi said seriously:

"I 100% agree that a little sister is necessary. But that means this guy here would no longer be living alone…"

"But there is an event that the little sister goes to her brother's house who is living alone!"

"Good idea! You are a genius!"

"Ahahaha, I'm not that good yet."

"Stop your self-satisfying illusion! What you just said is an eroge event, there is no way it could happen in real life!"

I couldn't help but criticize them. Mikagami looked back at me:

"Ah, you really are knowledgeable, Kyousuke-kun. You couldn't pass a game that matches your taste. From NETA's 'little sister Dreamwork series', the newest game ' The beginning of imouto-wife' is a wonderful product, isn't it?"

"As if I know!"

"Kouhei-kun, what should you do if you have to live together with another little sister?"

"Hm, I only have one little sister, that assumption is meaningless. Still, if Sena lived together with me ---- it would be very troublesome."

Of course it would be!

I criticized them again:

"Anyway, we are talking about what items are necessities for my room. Give me some other ideas, damn it!"

"We weren't planning to talk about little sisters. – Have you prepared anything?"

"Nothing aside from a chair and a table. Dad will take care of my futon."[4]."

"What about a washing machine and a refrigerator? TV and computer too?"

"Should I bring them? Two months without TV is no big deal. And about washing my clothes, I could use a nearby coin washing machine."

"But Kyousuke, how could you play eroge without your computer?"

"I was moving outside to study!"

Do you think I moved outside just to play eroge?

"Right, right, Kyousuke's just trying to act tough." Akagi said.

"Hm, I was prepared to endure these two months. I had already let go of that!"

"I see. Oh by the way, when I used your computer to search the internet for 'Aragaki Ayase ero image' keyword, I got a lot of websites that you would be interested in."

"I really want to kill you right now!"

During our duel to find out 'which little sister is the cutest in the world', showing Ayase's image to Akagi was a wrong choice! I stared at Akagi with angry eyes, before I coughed and looked at the sky.

"By the way, what are those websites?"

"You are really interested, aren't you?"

Of course not! It was because you caused me a headache! I'm Ayase's acquaintance! For her sake, I need to understand what kind of dirty websites they are!

Mikagami answered me by turning on his computer.

"Ahh….could it be that you meant this website?"

"Which one? Which one?"

Both Akagi and I quickly surrounded the screen. Actually, for three guys to stay so close to each other wasn't very comfortable.

In the first search result, unlike our expectation, it wasn't a dirty erotic website….

"Lovely my angel Ayase-tan Fanblog"

"……"

"….Say…Kousaka…you said you wanted to confirm it ….Could it be…this is your blog?"

"Of of of of course not!"

I hastily denied.

"It it it’s a mistake! It’s not mine! How could could could I use the name on my mind in an open blog like this!"

"Inside…what's the content? What is the content of this blog?"

Is this Aragaki Ayase the same Aragaki Ayase that I know?

"Looks like …it's the same Aragaki Ayase that we know."

Mikagami moved the mouse and clicked at the image section.

There were a lot of pictures to view.

『今日のあやせたん』
HN:さやか
最新の記事

Most of them showed Ayase in uniform after school or while she was working as a model. They got titles like 'A normal day for Ayase-tan', 'Ayase-tan's dress was so cute , I want to buy a similar one' or 'Winter dress'. The owner of this blog signed herself as Sayaka, and she wrote her goal was 'to become like Ayase-tan'.

Looked like among those models, this Sayaka was (probably a junior) a fan of Ayase.

"What kind of website is that? I want to bookmark it."

"Didn't you just say that you had temporarily let go of this stuff?"

That was before you told me about the existence of this wonderful website!

Wow! That's the super beautiful Ayase-tan. She even got a fanblog. I was so proud to be her acquaintance.

"Does Kirino have a fanblog too?"

"Want me to search 'Kousaka Kirino ero image'?"

I launched my killer move at him without saying anything.

"…You, Kousaka! You want to kill me!?"

"You should feel lucky that you are still alive!"

By the way, among those pictures of Ayase, there were no erotic images, only cute, innocent moe images.

"Let's get back to our topic - what were we talking about?" Mikagami said.

Don't pull me out of my imagination about Ayase!

"We were…probably talking about what furniture I should bring."

"Yes, yes." Akagi nodded and continued:

"What about a refrigerator? A mini refrigerator would be useful."

"Why should I need one? Now is the era of convenience stores and vending machines."

"You planned to live two months by relying on convenience stores and vending machines? Your body would be ruined."

Making meals by yourself - that was Akagi's suggestion.

Hm…meal huh…

"Making meals by myself…it's not impossible."

"How about asking Kirino to make you a bentou?"

"You guys always have terrible ideas."

….Although it's not totally impossible, but I had never thought about it before.

Kirino wears an apron in a kitchen….This imagination is too unbelievable. Last year, during Valentine's Day, she made her own chocolate. But I wasn't home at the time.

"Kirino would probably think that this was partly her responsibility, so if you asked her she would easily agree. "

"Why are you making the base assumption that comes back to Kirino no matter what? Just thinking about it makes me break into cold sweat. Even if I asked, she would say 'Ha? Are you an idiot'."

Besides, Kirino doesn't feel any responsibility at all.

She even told me it's okay not to come back.

"A bentou made by Kirino is impossible!" I restated.

"Look, Kouhei-kun. It's a typical tsundere type. Now is a very critical time."

"Whenever Kyousuke talks about his little sister, he always seems to be happy."

"Of course not! It's not like that!"

"Alright, alright, if you don't want a bentou made by Kirino ----"

Mikagami said something that instantly made me angry.

"How about a bentou from your girlfriend?"

"……."

My chest hurts! I only let my guard down for a second and he adds salt to my injury!

….However, I never told him about Kuroneko

"Ah? What do you think, Kyousuke-kun?"

"…Please don't say anything about that right now."

Akagi patted Mikagami's shoulder.

"Got it, then let's return to our topic."

"…Still….just now, I really just tried to act tough by saying that…"

I looked up with a bright expression.

"I feel that after I talked with you guys, I'm even more nervous. Living alone - seems fun. Of course I have to focus on studying, but to be able to buy whatever furniture I need, place them anywhere I like, being free to call my friends over anytime - it seems fun."

Hearing this, those two looked at each other.

"Pfff."

"Pfff."

"Hey! What's so funny about it?"

"Ahahahaha."

Mikagami patted my back,

"Did you hear that Kouhei-kun? He felt more nervous after we spoke with him!"

"I heard it all. You are so dense Kousaka."

"Just what exactly are you laughing about? I was saying thank you…."

"Yeah, yeah, we got it."

Akagi laughed just like he was talking with a kid:

"Your first time living alone would definitely become a happy memory."

Chapter 2

第二章
ore no
imouto ga
konnani
kawaii
wake ga
nai

"Phew… Ah…"

My study session temporarily came to an end as I stretched in my chair. My stiff shoulders let out a small crack. My neck twisted back and forth, making me feel better.

I looked around my room. It was the same as my room when I was in high school. A six tatami mat large room, with almost no personality furniture. Or should I say that my personality was no personality at all.

I stood up and went to the living room, which was about ten tatami mats large.

On the sofa, in front of the TV, my little sister was wearing casual clothes.

This girl is Kousaka Kirino. As you already know, she is my little sister and my roommate.

Fine, fine, fine, fine!!! I get it that you don't understand right now! So at least allow me to finish my conversation between me and my little sister!

"Say…"

Seeing me, Kirino asked:

"Yes?"

"Have you finished studying for today?"

"No, I just took a break. I have to go back soon."

"Ah, I see. Then go cook something for me."

"_____"

I looked at the clock and noticed it was almost 6:00 PM.

"Okay, what would you like?"

"Hmm… you decide. Make sure it's 300 calories or less."

"Got it."

"By the way, make your own meal too. Today I'm giving you special privileges to join me for dinner."

"Got it — I understand."

I walked to the kitchen and skillfully put on the apron … Yeah… It was that kind of relationship, I once tried to protest, but now I'm used to it…

Because… Because Kirino is now feeding me. The model Kirino-sama is the one who earned money for us, thus giving her the right to decide everything in this house, she is like a god. Even calling her Master is not excessive.

…Actually, I already had to call her that.

"Damn it… she is such a sadist…"

In order to make vegetable soup with less than 300 calories I started by cutting cabbage into pieces… Ah… how did it come to this…?

Yes, it all started when I failed the test during my final year at high school.

Now, I'm in my first year at university — it was hard to admit, but I was labeled as a 'ronin'[5]. Before I went into the exam room I talked smugly and with confidence — although afterwards I lowered my goals, but it wasn't enough.

"…That was the changing point in my life…"

I finished cutting and washing the vegetables, then started cutting 200 grams of chicken breast. The water in the pot also started to boil…

…I never though that my life would turn into this.

Ah… I said the same thing one year ago…

"Hey! What are you doing?"

My thought was cut off by my master — no, Kirino's voice, who just entered the kitchen.

"What am I doing? I'm making vegetable soup. Don't you like it?"

"Ah yes, I like it. I like whatever you make… I mean what's with your outfit?"

"Huh?"

I looked back at myself.

A T-shirt and jeans along with a Meruru apron that covered the front of my lower body.

"What's wrong with that? You are the one who bought this apron."

"I didn't mean it like that!"

From some unknown reason, Kirino blushed and looked down, licking her lower lip.

Then she suddenly asked me:

"Why aren't you wearing only the apron?"

"…!?"

Wh… What?

Just now… did I mishear her?

"Kirino-chan… Just now, did you ask me why I'm not wearing only an apron?"

I must have misheard! That must be it! My ears must have gone bad.

"Uhm… yes."

"Who would be happy because of that? Who would be happy to see my ass?"

I ignored the fact that I was criticizing myself.

"I will be happy! Is there any problem with that?"

"For real?"

What kind of messed up conversation is this?

"So… could you do that for me?"

"We… we are living together after all…"

"~~~~~ To... together?"

"Yes… we are living together… Isn't that right?"

"…Well… you aren't wrong…"

Because of a wide range of reasons, I'm now living together with Kirino.

"It is impossible!"

I roared and caught Kirino's wrist.

"Ah… what are you doing."

"What am I doing? Kirino… you… are a fake."

"Ha?"

"Sure, my little sister is very moe and likes to play little sister based eroge. But she is not like you! She isn't the type of pervert who want to see her aniki's ass! So listen to me! My little sister is not like ————"

Clink clink clink clink clink clink clink clink clink clink clink clink clink clink clink clink clink

"Ah!"

I got up from my bed, turned off the alarm and looked around, and confirmed my situation —

"It was a dream ~~~~~~~~~ "

Ha ——— I let out a sigh then massaged my temple.

"What the heck did I just dream about?"

It is impossible. There is no way I could live together with Kirino.

Am I going to be forced to wear an apron?

Just thinking about it made me want to vomit. I should forget this dream as soon as possible.

"…That must be because of Mikagami's brother."

I felt that something had been bugging me. Now I understood.

When I went to Mikagami's house, my subconscious automatically thought about me freeloading at Kirino's place, thus causing that weird dream.

"Ah forget it, I should go wash my face."

I walked to the bathroom.

Now, I'm not sleeping in my room as usual, but the temporary room after I moved out.

It was a single six tatami mat large room, with a toilet and bathroom. There was a large space to put my belongings.

For someone living alone, it wasn't too bad.

…Still, the room was 30 years old. It was inevitable that the room was little ragged.

It had been two days since I visited Mikagami's house.

Of course, my little sister didn't come to live with me.

Moving out was simpler than I thought. During a Sunday, Dad borrowed a car and brought me a table, a computer, some clothes, a futon and some other necessities. I brought some on my own, thus leading to my room looking like it does now.

"My life style is so simple…"

Now, I was totally free, but at the same time I felt a little lonely.

I already got my allowance. Some questions still remained unanswered, like Akagi worrying about what I would do for my meals, but I would face that when the time came.

I went to school and was now chatting with Manami and Akagi, mostly about how I'm now living alone.

"— That's all, moving out is very simple."

"What do you feel when living alone? Don't you feel lonely?"

Manami asked me with her usual heart-warming smile . Tamura Manami — my childhood friend and classmate who always wears plain glasses. Recently she had started to act normally again. For a while, because of everything that had happened, she had been treating me differently.

— Of course not, I don't have to quarrel with anyone anymore.

The other day, after I came back from Mikagami's house, I went to Tamura's house and told her everything. Then in the same night, I told Kuroneko and Saori online.

I stood up from my seat and took my bag.

"I don't feel lonely at all, in contrast, I feel better without have to see my little sister's face."

Hearing that, Akagi pat my back:

"Kousaka, didn't you say the same thing when your little sister went abroad?"

"Aha, yes you did! Kyou-chan, you were so lonely back then."

"….."

I take back what I said; Manami was still treating me different.

"That's the past, now is now!"

"Uhm uhm ~ we got it already."

I felt like they could see through me. The truth is, my childhood friend could easily read my mood and intention, but how much did I know about Manami? I couldn't help thinking about it.

"Really… I'm so envious of you."

"Huh?"

Because she didn't hear me, Manami titled her head.

"It's nothing."

"Oh, right. You are not going to forget the celebration for this event, are you?"

"Of course not! It's nothing worth mentioning."

"Could it be, Kyou-chan didn't bring anything to cook? "

"I only have to live there for two months; there is no need to bring any with me."

By the way, I had also made up my mind and was determined to come back home after two months.

But Manami shook her head.

"Two months is 60 days. You shouldn't say that it's ' just two months'."

Ah, she raised her hand and started lecturing me again .

She was back in granny mode.

"You are so hopeless, Kousaka. I will give you my family's old toaster then."

Ah… even this guy…

"…I understand. I will use it with gratitude. Thank you."

It is so embarrassing

"…But to tell the truth, I don't know how to cook a meal."

Hearing this, Akagi pointed at my face.

"Then this time, I will make a meal for you."

This scene looked like it's from an eroge.

Although the speaker was a male…

"What… you can cook?"

"Of course… It is my hobby too."

"Ha ~ first, allow me to thank you…Still, you must not let your little sister find out about it at any cost."

"Why?"

"Because she is a fu…"

"Um….."

Just reminding him is enough to make him understand … what a scary girl.

"Ah… then how about letting Tamura-san cook for you?"

"Nice, Manami's meals are the best!"

I don't know how good Akagi is, but he would never win against Manami.

While we were talking, Manami said in embarrassment:

"Wah wah! I'm not that good!"

Seeing this, Akagi looked directly at me:

"…You are a guy that deserves Heaven's punishment."

"Ah?"

"It's nothing."

"So… Is Kyou-chan going to hold a celebration party this weekend?"

Manami was so excited that she looked like an elementary school student…

Next to me, Akagi was whistling and clapping his hands in encouragement.

Since we had decided on the party, let's continue talking about the mock exam.

"— So, what's the truth? Are you really that confident? "

"Um….. I should manage to find a way."

I was now trying to solve the previous exam's questions. I had never looked at them before, but I was still confident that I could get an A.

"Hey, that doesn't count as an answer. What do you think about this, Tamura?"

"What a real man! But if you can't get an A… then you will get into big trouble at the real exam."

"Ora? Tamura seemed too uncertain."

"Hmm, Akagi, you were tricked by his innocent appearance. He is actually very smart… My guess is that right now he could pass in anything but English."

"Ah? So you are bad with English?"

"Not exactly, but when I took the previous exam, I failed to finish it in time."

"Uhm ~ Kyou-chan is someone who rarely makes a careless mistake, but he is slow during problem-solving."

"…Aren't you are the same? How could you pass it?"

"Truly, the result of years of practicing has shown itself …"

"Is that all?"

"Say, how was your result when you did last year's exam?" Akagi asked.

"About 40-50%... maybe."

So embarrassing…...

Hearing that, Manami opened her bag and took out a big reference book.

"This… is a collection of English questions…Do you want to borrow it? The last year's exam is in here too."

"Really? Can I?"

"Yes. I had already made a copy of it. There are still some more books at my home, so you should drop by when you have a chance."

"Wow! Thank you Manami!"

You always know what I need!

"Um ~ if there is something you don't understand, feel free to call me."

Manami smiled at me.

Akagi pat my shoulder.

"Kousaka. Tamura has given you so much help, be sure to get an A."

"I plan to get an A no matter what. By the way, I have to remind you that you should take care of your own studying too."

Every twelfth-grade student all over the country was going to take part in this after all.

"You are right…" Akagi smiled wryly.

Manami said:

"I will do my best so I can enter the same university with Kyou-chan too."

After that, I went back to my new home. I didn't notice there was a department store truck nearby.

When I arrived on the second floor (my room is 201)…

"What the…! Why is the door open?"

Did Mom come?. I looked inside and saw someone that shouldn't be there.

"Ah, please leave it here. Okay, I need to sign here, right?"

Aside from the delivery man, the other one inside — who looked like the master of this room, is my little sister .

"Thank you ~~"

She bid the delivery man good bye.

I waited until his body disappeared from my sight and turned to face Kirino's eyes.

She was wearing her school's uniform.

"Ah, welcome back."

"Welcome back my ass! You…"

I entered the room and noticed that inside the kitchen was a new mini-refrigerator. It definitely wasn't there when I left home.

At first, I was about to ask her what the hell she was doing here, but that question stuck inside my throat.

"That… This…"

I temporary lost the ability to form words.

"A refrigerator. That's for you, hurry up and thank me.
"

"…Refrigerator… Did Dad buy it?"

"No. I bought it for you."

She showed a patronizing look... No! I did not want to say this.

"Why?"

"Huh?"

"Why did you buy a refrigerator for me?"

This is totally not normal. A middle school girl bought a refrigerator for me… This is too unreal.

My question seemed to offend her a bit. She stayed silent for a while, but she finally said:

"…You see… At that… family meeting, you were chased out of the house. Although it was only partially... my fault… so... because you aren't going to buy much, if I leave you alone you will stick to bento from a convenience store…"

Kirino's voice was getting weaker, her eyes gradually moved away from me.

"So I bought you a refrigerator! Are you happy?"

To tell the truth, I felt anxious and troubled…

"You… this… refrigerator… how much was it?"

"Huh? ...About ¥30 000. You are coming back soon anyway, so a mini-size should be okay, right?"

No, no, no… I'm not asking about this refrigerator.

My little sister, who is in middle school bought a ¥30 000 refrigerator and gave it to me! I felt like I was fed by her! …Oh, the nightmare when I was freeloading at her place had started becoming clearer…

But… however…

"…What? Are you dissatisfied?"

Seeing Kirino's fierce glare, I told her:

"Thank you Kirino. It's a big help. Really…"

"Hmph… I see."

I just thanked her, but what is with her reaction?

Ah, forget it. There is something I have to ask.

"About that… uhm… Is it okay for you to come here?"

"Huh?"

"I mean… the reason I was chased out was because of ' that'. But not only have you come here, you even bought me a refrigerator…"

Kirino interrupted me:

"Are you an idiot?"

Kirino then raised her voice and started lecturing me.

"All of this, everything was a misunderstanding, got it ? Wherever I am is not going to change it. True, it would be a problem if Mom finds out, but we only have to make sure she doesn't. Not to mention there is nothing to hide between us."

She seemed angry… Was that because of Mom? Or me ? Either way she continued by asking:

"Say, between you and me… I couldn't imagine what kind of nonsense they were thinking! Don't you agree?"

"….."

"Why… are you not saying anything?"

"…You won't hit me, okay?"

"I won't!"

Ah ~ so dangerous…

As predicted, I gracefully evaded Kirino's slap and placed my hand on my little sister's head.

"I was silent, because I think that this misunderstanding is unavoidable."

"What…"

"True, recently the relationship between us has improved a lot. We used to have a terrible relationship. So, from an outsider's point of view, thinking it has become 'a little too good' is unavoidable."

"…Can you stop saying such disgusting things? We don't really have… a good relationship… And take your hand down."

"Right, right."

I teased her and took my hand off her head.

"Just keep living like normal without worrying. You didn't do anything that goes against your conscience."

"That… Of course I will!"

Yes. That's right. How could there be something between me and my little sister.

It isn't a game.

"Dad probably accepted this decision because of Mom. I doubt he really thinks this way. I will get an A and go back home as soon as possible."

I smiled and said:

"So Kirino, don't be angry. It's really nothing."

"_____"

Kirino looked like she was shaken by something. She started walking forward, with her back facing me.

"I'm going back."

"Oh!"

"I said I'm going back."

"Ah, I see…"

What are you angry for…

I walked her to the door and thanked her again.

"Thank you for the refrigerator."

"Uhm… Anyway, this refrigerator would probably be thrown away after you come back…"

"That won't happen. Even after I come back, I will keep it in my room. My unpleasant and boring room will become brighter."

Because it is a present from you, I will keep it even after I graduate from university. Even if I start living alone again.

"I see. Do whatever you want."

What a cold answer…

Kirino put on her shoes, but suddenly turned back like she remembered something.

And although she didn't say anything, she looked restless so I asked,

"Is something wrong?"

"Um… You… when you study, do you have time to take break?"

"Well… yes, I do take breaks. Sometimes I read manga or…"

Visit Ayase's fan blog and view her pictures…

"I see. Then this should be fine."

Kirino said in her brightest voice since she came here and took something out of her bag.

[The Beginning of Imouto-wife ~ The Forbidden Life of the Two]

An eroge.

She said:

"This is for you!"

What a cute smile! I unconscious took the game box from her.

"You… you, you, you!!!!"

Ack… What should I say? I received something like this from my little sister when I just started living alone. How could I explain it to the others?

I was too lazy to criticize her. Seeing my reaction, Kirino immediately started getting excited.

"Um ~Um? Ah ah ah ~ hee hee ~ There is no need to thank me. It's just an eroge, so now you owe me one~"

"Because of this, my life now has a huge flaw!"

This is absolutely clear! Now, for me! I simply must not take it in my hands!

What is Imouto-wife? This is the first time I have heard of it.

"Okay, okay, just give it a try! It's very ~~~~~~~~ awesome! This is a godlike eroge among recent eroges!"

"I got your point, but this game's title is…"

"Is something wrong with that?"

I knew it! You didn't think about it!

"About that… Kirino… Actually, I don't have any problem with playing an eroge anymore. After so many things have happened, I'm used to it."

Even I knew that something was unusual about this feeling… but I needed to check if she realized it or not.

"However, even as experienced as I am, there is no way I could beat this 'Imouto-wife'."

"What? Just like 'imouto marriage', this is normal human's language!"

"Then let me make rephrase myself. This title – ' Forbidden Life of the Two' is too much. If I took that, I would become a pervert aniki who wanted a 'forbidden life of the two' with my 'imouto wife'."

Kirino retreated back.

"…Disgusting! Is that how you look at me?"

"How dare you say that!"

From an outsider's point of view, an aniki who is living alone can't, mustn't receive 'The Beginning of Imouto-wife'! ...Forget it, I felt like I was about to faint…. I needed to clear my head first…

"So… in general, I will consider this as your aid for me …"

"Ha ~~? What are you saying? Don't get full of yourself!"

Kirino crossed her arms across her chest and looked down on me:

"If you still don't get it, I will make it clear — because I felt like I owe you. I don't like it, so I gave you that refrigerator and this godlike eroge. I don't know what is going to happen to you, and I don't want to care. I should say that since there is no longer an annoying guy at home , I felt so ~~~~~~ refreshed!"

"…You…"

Your explanation only made me even angrier.

And please, let Mom hear what you just said!

Her doubts will disappear immediately!

"Beside, an A — is impossible for you."

Kirino laughed mockingly.

Damn it! Stop looking down on me!

"Ha! Don't look down on me ~ I don't have any pressure on my side!"

"Ha ~~? You were always as lazy as a dying pig. Did you ever study seriously after moving out?"

"Ha! If you say so, how about we make a bet. What if I get an A?"

"This is meaningless!"

"Just answer!"

Our conversation was getting faster and faster.

Kirino shot me a glance.

"If you can't get an A, you will become my slave for the rest of your life."

"Isn't the risk too high?"

It's worse than a gamble at a shady casino!

If I lose, my life will be over!

"Becoming my slave for the rest of your life — you are the one who is going to benefit from it."

"You, you! Just now, are you serious?"

"Ah ~ annoying. With this condition, our bet means nothing. Because you are a siscon, I bet you will purposely do poorly on your test in order to become my slave."

"I will win even if it is the last thing I do! I will win this bet!"

Thank you! It's thanks to you that I'm now motivated!

"So if I win, you will become my slave for the rest of your life too?"

"…Disgusting… I have recorded everything you have said."

"You are so horrible!!!!"

You are so evil! Don't learn it from Ayase!

Kirino took an activated iPhone out from her bag.

"Okay, this will be the proof for our bet. You must fulfill the terms if you lose."

"……"

"If you get an A, I will give you a reward."

"…Reward?"

"Yes, reward."

Somehow… I have a bad feeling.

"I have to ask, what will you do if I get an A?"

"I will do whatever you say once."

Crank

Leaving those words behind, Kirino quickly opened the door and ran away.

"Ha ~"

That night at 10:00 PM, after Kirino left, I started focusing on my studies. Now I was taking a break to make a time table. I twisted the pen and ruler in my hand and thought back about what happened.

"You ~ piss me off soooooo much! I hate you Kirino…!
"

If I lose, I will be her slave forever. If I win, I could only voice one wish…

The conditions were so far in Kirino's favor that I didn't even want to think about it!

What the heck did she mean by, "it's okay if you don't come back". I was definitely going to come back.

"…Ah, forget it."

That damn little sister of mine kept looking down on me. I would definitely make you regret it!

"That's right… I only have to win."

Then I could return all of my humiliation.

She bought me a refrigerator all by herself.

She bought me an eroge out of her good-will.

She actually wished me good luck with my exam, and promised a reward for me.

Haha, now I that think back, my little sister was so cute when she was angry.

"This is entirely Dad's fault!"

During that time when I was deep in thought, I finished making the time table.

I hung it up on the wall.

"Ha ~~ I think this should be enough."

Although I said that…

...My real intentions were…

"Kukukuku…"

When I thought about the moment I will return home in triumph and what Kirino's expression would be like — I couldn't help but laugh.

"…One wish… huh?"

What should I ask her to do? My choices were getting bigger with each day that passed.

"Alright! I should go back to studying English!"

Just as I opened my notebook…

Beep beep beep… beep beep beep… beep beep beep — My cell phone rang.

"…Who is calling me now?"

" — Huh? This girl…"

Seeing that caller's name on the screen, my eyes narrowed.

——— Kurusu Kanako.

"Hi."

"Hi~"

I felt like a mook [6] speaking with a yakuza boss…

This tone is undoubtedly Kanako's.

I should explain. This is Kanako, Kirino's friend and classmate. Recently, she had started working as a model, but most of the time she acted like a brat when cosplaying.

A while ago, there was a Meruru live event which I attended as Kanako's manager. She forced me to exchange numbers with her.

By the way, I told her my real name too.

"Kanako? Children should go to sleep early, you know ?"

"Shut up! It's just 10 o'clock! Kanako [7] has good news for you!"

"Good news?"

"Right ~ Have you decided to become Kanako's and Bridget-chan's manager?"

"What?"

"If you like, Kanako can tell her president about that."

…Could it be, she…

She thought that I was an employee? Was that why she called me?

Haha, this girl… she is just a brat, but she also cares for other people…

"Thank you, but no. I have to focus on studying now."

"…Kanako understands."

Kanako sounded disappointed.

"Kyousuke, are you still a student?"

"Yes."

This girl thought that I had already entered society.

She didn't doubt me at all… Did I look that old to her?

"Kanako understands… then it can't be helped…"

Kanako sighed and continued.

"Well, you are better than Kanako's current manager, so call Kanako if you change your mind later."

"Are you serious? I'm better than your current manager?"

I couldn't believe it. I'm just an amateur high school student.

"Ah? Are you still playing modest? Kanako is telling the truth. Kanako's current manager always complains about Kanako. Totally unlike you."

"Isn't it a good thing?"

"Well it is ~ but ~ how should Kanako put it? Kanako hopes we could treat each other equally ~? Kanako wants to have that kind of relationship."

"Right, right."

I don't actually understand…

"You made me feel comfortable."

So… it's not like you need me to do anything, but because I make you feel comfortable?

"Can I ask you a few questions so I could work better with you in the future? Like what exactly made you feel comfortable?"

"Ah? Ah — for example you really love things about Kanako."

Love things about you? Yeah right! Don't look down on me, brat!

I *couldn't get any useful references from you.*

Ah, right, I owed her an apology.

"Ah, Kanako, about the live performance earlier…"

Just when I was about to open my mouth.

"Stop."

Did she have something to say?

"Kyousuke, you… during my live performance, you dare to not show up."

"Sorry! Something suddenly came up…"

"Kanako doesn't have many events like that, you know ?"

"I was wrong! You specifically asked me to come, but …"

I was about to beg for forgiveness, but Kanako ignored me.

" Hm ~~~ well ~~ at the time ~~~ your face was full of determination. Kanako thought that you had something important to take care of ~"

She would be angry if she knew that I had to pick up my little sister.

"I will make it up to you later."

"Oh ~ you want to make up for this?"

Kanako laughed out loud.

"So… what do you want me to do?"

I was afraid of her answer, but her words caught me off guard.

"Tell me your address."

"…What?"

"Your! Home!"

"…Are you saying that…you want to come here?"

"Uhm~"

"I'm living alone."

"Ha~ so ~ what?"

"So what? You are a girl, you shouldn't visit a man alone."

"Why~?"

Her voice hinted a bit of disapproval.

"You… I know that this is your habit, but it isn't safe!"

"Hahahahaha."

She laughed.

"Oh!? What are you going to do? Do you want to do something to Kanako?"

"I won't!"

"Oh~! Then it is fine ~ Tell me your address then ~~"

"…"

What a scary brat…Well, the truth is I didn't see Kanako like a little sister. So it's not like there is a problem.

"I just moved here, so there is nothing here. Even if you came, I couldn't even make tea."

"Really?"

Huh? Why did she sound so happy?

"Ah… uhm…"

"Ha ~ then this is a perfect chance~"

"A perfect chance for what?"

"Heehee ~ that's a secret ~ You will be Kanako's test subject~"

What was she trying to do? She sounded like she was scheming something…

"So… when will you come?"

"Tomorrow."

Too fast!

So — after school the following day, Kanako came to my home. I was worried that she might arrive before I got back, so I rushed home as fast as possible, but it turned out my worries were for naught. When the bell rang, I had been studying for 40 minutes.

When I opened the door and met Kanako in her casual clothes, the first thing she said was:

"Ah, what a run-down apartment. Don't you have any money?"

"Who cares?"

"Right ~ sorry for intruding ~~"

Without waiting for me to say anything, Kanako snuck under my armpit and entered the room.

"Ack!? What the heck is that?"

"Ah? This?"

Kanako laughed and raised one of her hands, which was holding a box warped in a cloth.

"This ~ heehee ~ are you happy?"

Kanako laughed proudly and unwrapped the box, revealing what was inside —

"A bento box?"

"Yup. Inside contains potato stew, chicken and glutinous[8] rice ~ also~~"

Kanako showed me that the box was covered in Meruru's picture.

I saw with my own eyes that yes, not only it did contained potato stew, chicken and glutinous rice, but it also had fried chicken egg, pickles, boiled pumpkin, and a wide variety of dishes piled up together.

In short, it looked quite well made…

"Did… you make it?"

No one could blame my shocked expression, right?

"Ha~ why are you so surprised? Kanako will tell you this before hand, but those things are so ~ troublesome."

"Is this real… you know how to cook a meal?"

She was clearly a brat who never did any housework.

"Well ~ Kanako is learning ~"

"…Ah, I see… is this what you meant by 'test subject'?"

So she wanted me to be test if it was safe to eat.

"~ Yes ~"

"Really? I'm so lucky!"

"Really?"

"I can eat a meal that a future idol made — normal people couldn't even dream of it."

"Oh, really ~? For real ~? Oh heehee ~"

Why does this brat become so pleased with such simple compliments?

She is easy to handle…

"There is no need to be shy ~ go ahead ~"

"Thank you…"

I took a piece of potato stew and dropped it into my mouth…

"It's good!"

"Really?"

"You are so amazing!"

It was as good as Manami's potato stew!

"This rice is also good!"

It was as good as Manami's rice too.

"Oh hee hee ~ how about this?"

"Um? Why is there a separated part in this bento box?"

"Just eat it."

Kanako showed a mischievous smile.

"Ah… ah…"

I put the potato stew from the separated part into my mouth…

"…Uurgh… it's too bitter…"

If I had to give it my honestly impression, then this couldn't be called food!

Hearing that, Kanako placed both of her hands behind her head and laughed:

"Really? Kanako knew it would probably be hard to eat ~"

"If you knew it, then don't force me to eat it!"

"How could Kanako call this an experiment without keeping you in the dark?"

"…Alright, next, so that good food that I just ate actually wasn't made by you, right?"

"Yep ~"

"You acknowledged it! You were just pretending the whole time?!"

"Didn't Kanako tell you that she is still learning? Kanako will get better, so don't pay attention to Kanako's current results ~"

What insane breed of logic is that…?

Still… she tried to study on how to cook a meal. I had to give her my admiration for that. This was one of her good points.

"Well, you don't have to eat this part if it's too hard to eat."

"It's not like it's inedible."

Compare to Kirino's Valentine's black brick biscuits, at least this wasn't poisonous. So I ended up eating all of the bento without trouble.

"Thanks for the meal."

"Uhm ~"

"Was I any help?"

"Huh? What?"

"I mean, as your test subject, was I helpful?"

I only wanted to ask if I really was of any help, but for some reason she was dumbfounded.

"Ah… ah… uhm...~ this ~ Maybe ~?"

I had no idea what you mean by that…

"What does that mean?"

"So annoying, stop asking~"

Kanako blushed and waved her fist at me.

Well, if you say so. I honestly had no way to help though.

Kanako doesn't look like someone who wanted to learn to cook bento — so why?

I should try to find a chance and ask her.

"Say… Kanako."

After we had some tea, I asked:

"Um ~"

"Why do you want to learn how to cook?"

"Ah, Kanako wants to cook for her parents."

"Your parents?"

This was unexpected… I thought you were trying to make food for your boyfriend. But I still don't get it.

Why do you have to cook for your parents?

"In Kanako's house ~ her parents had a really ~ bad relationship ~ so Kanako ran away and now lives with her big sister."

The topic suddenly turned serious.

Ran away from home — for someone who was just chased out of home like me, I can't help but pay attention .

"Ah… is it okay to tell me that?"

"It's not anything big… Anyways, Kanako's parents are now living separately. Recently, my father was sick. It was a normal illness, so Kanako thought that maybe it was a chance to make up with him."

Even though she sounded like she was joking… This girl is amazing…

"But Kanako doesn't know how to make up with him ~ so ~"

"So you want to learn how to cook?"

"Uhm, Ayase introduced me to a teacher."

"Uhm ~ your cooking teacher."

"Yup ~ Although she is a plain girl in glasses, she has a lot of skill."

"I knew it."

I see. She had her story too. In the last year, I wasn't the only one who had changed and made progress.

Everyone had their life too.

"Say ~ about… can Kanako ask you something?"

"Uhm, go ahead."

Kanako showed a smile that I had never seen before and took out something from behind her back.

" ~~~ What is 'imouto-wife'~?"

"That's a game."

I gave her an honest answer. But wait a second! Why are you holding this!?

"Hm ~ what is the title?"

"The Beginning of Imouto-wife ~ The Forbidden Life of the Two."

"Go to hell."

"……"

"Die."

No, no, no, no! Don't look at me like that… I really want to die…

"Wait a second. I clearly hid it inside my blanket."

"At first, Kanako thought it was an erotic book ~ but this is totally unexpected."

This girl is horrible!

Damn it!! Even after I started living alone, eroge still brought me trouble!

Even when I hid it away!

"Say, Kyousuke, you should give up your hope in that …"

"No, no, listen to me. It's not like that!"

What is not like that Kyousuke! Think Kyousuke! Think of something that can get you out of this!

It had been a long time since I last used it. This is my specialty — make an excuse

"This is not a weird game or anything? Is this ~ an eroge~?"

"Of course not."

"Really?"

"Yes."

"……"

Kanako opened the game box and pointed at the erotic CG inside:

"So… what is this girl doing?"

"She is eating sausage."

What am I saying to a middle school girl?

Is this okay? Isn't it bad to tell Kanako all this?

"….."

This silence made me very uncomfortable…

Kanako let out a sigh and ceased her innocent looking.

"…Is this an eroge?"

"Yes."

I'm done for... I knelt down immediately. Actually, kneeling in front of a girl is something I was used to. Kanako grit her teeth and began her lecturing.

"Reflect on yourself ~~~! You are someone with a little sister ~~~ Why do you have a little sister based eroge!"

"…Who is…"

'My little sister?' - I stopped myself in time.

"Say… Kanako."

"Ah?"

"Did… Did I tell you that I have a little sister?"

"—"

Kanako made a surprised expression.

"…"

"Hey… why don't you say something?"

"Ah… actually… I had thought about it, but I was hesitant to ask you…"

"Kyousuke, are you Kirino's elder brother?"

"…What makes you think so?"

Saying that was the same confirming it. Kanako answered me truthfully.

"Because you arrived late to Kanako's live performance , right? You arrived together with Kirino, she was in a wedding dress."

Ah, so she saw us.

"Not only that, your family name is the same. Bridget-chan thought it was strange too, so when Kanako asked her, she told me that you looked exactly like Kirino's boyfriend. That's why Kanako came to this conclusion."

Ah ~ so that's how we were found out.

Well, my cover was weak to begin with.

Damn… this girl surely didn't remember me from our first meeting!

"Yes. That's right."

"I knew it. Kyousuke is Kirino's elder brother ~~~ and you are going out with your little sister."

"I'm not! How did you come to that conclusion?"

"Because your little sister introduced you as her boyfriend and you bought this little sister based eroge."

That reason sounded unexpectedly convincing!

"It is impossible for me to date my little sister. I was asked to pretend to be her boyfriend at the time, and that game was given to me by a fellow siscon!"

How is that? I'm telling the truth!

"So, is Kirino an otaku?"

"…Ack!"

…Could I hide below the floor? Such a difficult question, I couldn't cope with it!

Still… now she knew almost everything… Yeah, Kirino was careless. The last live performance was probably the decisive evidence…

"Well, that's impossible ~"

"Ha?"

What did you just say?

"How could Kirino be an otaku? She doesn't seem that way~"

Hooh… Looked like she still hadn't found out... This girl is such an idiot…

Kanako slammed the table and smiled:

"That ~ means ~ Kyousuke is the one who brought her to Kanako's live performance ~"

"…Kanako… you are such a good girl!"

Sorry for calling you an idiot…

"Ah wah wah don't come any closer ~ gross! What are you doing, suddenly leaning over like that?"

"…Sorry, I just did that unconsciously…"

Even with such decisive evidence, she still didn't think that Kirino is an otaku. It was unbelievable!

"By the way, what would you think if Kirino was an otaku?"

"Um… Let's see… Kanako will tease her with 'Kirino is a disgusting otaku' ~ and use a live performance ticket as bait to ask her to massage my shoulders ~"

There are no problems with that!

Such tolerance ~ what a good girl! A year ago, I should have asked her to come when I comforted Ayase, and then let her see Kirino's painful expression.

Kurusu Kanako, it seemed like I had misunderstood you.

"Hey, Kanako."

"Yes ~"

"About Kirino, please take care of her."

"Um? Why are you asking me this?"

"Well… I can't explain, so please take care of her!"

"…Alright."

Kanako titled her head in confusion.

However, she quickly reverted back to her unique smile. Raising her thumb, she confidently said:

"Hee hee ~ that's a given ~ just leave it to me."

After that, Kanako happily went back home and I took out some notebooks that Manami gave me.

"Alright ~ I should take care of this now."

Although English is my worst subject, it didn't mean that I could neglect other subjects.

In order to face the mock exam a month later, I kept studying for two hours until I finally felt tired and started yawning.

"…I should do something to change the mood."

Bathing in hot water was the simplest way for me to relax. After that, I normally drank a cup of cold coffee and rested my body – then I would continue studying. Doing so proved to be a very effective way to study.

"Hoh~"

So after I finished bathing, I walked to the refrigerator. If my little sister knew that I was half naked now, she would be angry.

I gulped down the ice coffee in one go and let out a satisfied sigh~~~~

Phew….. Having a refrigerator is really great! Thank you so much Kirino!

I came back to my table, turned on my computer, and opened my web browser. Of course I wanted to take a look at 'My Lovely Angel Ayase-tan Fanblog' that Akagi told me about a while ago.

"Alright~ Let's see what new picture they added today ~"

- Click*. After the page was loaded, I saw the newest change.

"Today I have spent time with Ayase-tan."

*** Ayase's picture ***

Good morning Ayase-tan ~ you are so cute today ~

Ayase : Sayaka, you are cute too.

Sayaka : heehee, but I couldn't hold a candle to you, Ayase-tan

Ayase : not at all (embarrassing)

Sayaka : But this is true ~~

Ayase : really ? (Stare ~~~~)

Sayaka : Yes ~~

*** Ayase's picture ***

Ayase-tan's fair neck is so beautiful ~

*** Ayase's picture ***

~~~ Ayase's skirt was blown away by the wind ~~

Just a bit more and I could see Ayase's underwear ~

*** Ayase's picture ***
~~~

She is an angel in this world ~

Behind Ayase's back, I saw some feathered wings ~

See you tomorrow ♪~ Good night Ayase-tan

———— This blog is always like that.

"Ha… Still the same blog with idiotic content."

The blog's owner used a lot of emoticons and signs — it was so disgusting.

Although the owner surely is an idiot, but at least I could say that he/she likes Ayase very much.

"What a pure white neck ~~~~~"

I muttered and started to download all of Ayase's new pictures. Looks like the blog owner Sayaka truly sees Ayase as an angel, there were no erotic images or anything remotely bad.

"Alright ~ Recharge complete ~~~~"

I closed the web browser and continued studying.

The next day, I was awakened by a fierce sound.

"…Ah…"

Looked like I fell asleep yesterday while studying.

"…It hurts…"

Because I slept on the table, my whole body ached.

Ring Ring

"What… the…"

I took a look at the alarm clock:

"I didn't set it… what is ringing?"

Ignore it. Ignore it… Need to study.

When I was about to keep studying…

*Ring Ring Ring Bang Bang *

———— Someone is hitting my door!

Did someone come and try to ask me to buy something from them? It was such a pain to deal with them. Usually, at my home, Dad was the one who did that and they never came back.

"…Ah, he will give up soon enough"

I ignored them.

*Ring Ring Ring Bang Bang Ring Ring Ring Bang Bang *

"Damn it! What a troublesome guy!"

I stood up and went to the door, however because of my body still ached, I fell down.

"…It hurts…"

I twisted my ankle! While I was lying on the floor in pain, the door bell stopped. I looked up at the door in surprise.

Crankkkkkkkkk

"What the?"

What… what just happened!? Did I hear someone turn the key?

And right in front of me, the closed door slowly opened!

— A pair of smooth legs appeared in front of me. I looked up and met the beautiful girl who was looking down.

"…What, what are you doing, onii-san?"

"A-Ayase?"

The one who just broke into my home is Aragaki Ayase. She is Kirino's best friend, classmate, coworker in modelling, and a beautiful girl.

Truly, she was more beautiful in person. A picture couldn't hold a candle to her.

Ayase had noticed my current position. With a cute ' Kya!' she hastily covered her skirt in embarrassment. I enjoyed the view of Ayase's posture before I exclaimed:

"You! What have you done! How did you open the door with a key?"

"Wh... What are you looking at!?"

She then proceeded to stomp on me. With her shoes. On my head.

"Kya! You wanted me to step on you that much! You pervert!"

It's not like that!? Beside, I couldn't see anything from here! You almost turned into a terrible girl!!!

Although I wanted to say that, right now I was sandwiched between her shoes and the floor, thus making me unable to explain anything……

……

"…Con-congratulation for your moving, onii-san."

She was talking to me in her normal voice…!? This is too strange! Too unusual! Was that something Ayase did on a daily basis?

As expected of Ayase, every time I deal with her is a challenge.

"…What perverted thing are you thinking about?"

If you truly could read my mind, how about put away your leg?

"Wah!? You looked so happy when I was stomping on you!? Please stop! Gross…!"

"Stop just making up my inner thoughts! How could I make up such a self-satisfying delusion?"

And so, I pushed myself off the ground and forced Ayase's leg back. Ayase took a few steps back, and talked to me in a very calm manner:

"Hmph, it's just normal pervert line I learnt from onii-san."

"Didn't I tell you that I won't sexually harass you again ?"

"But it doesn't mean I will forgive you!"

"But ~!"

I stood up

"Recently, you had showed me something that made me want to sexually harass you!"

"What nonsense are you talking about…"

Actually, I'm not sure myself. But recently Ayase seemed to be happy whenever she punished me for sexual harassment.

Maybe it was just my victim's paranoia, but…

"It's nothing like this! All of your actions were sexual harassment!"

"But before this, you…"

"Before? What?"

"…You will call all of my actions just now sexual harassment..."

"If you don't say it clearly, how am I supposed to know?"

"…Then let me make myself clear, I'm not sexually harassing you."

"Okay, okay, I got it already."

"During Kanako's live performance, inside the waiting room… you… did things to me…"

"Did what? Like what?"

"You secretly showed me your breasts and…"

Bang!!! A bag hit the side of my face!

"I never did that! That! That was an accident! I was only bringing my face closer to you…! You… just where did you look!?"

"But you are the one showed me your breasts in secret! I think that you are doing reverse sexual harassment!"

"Did I tell you already!? I was only bringing my face closer to you! Don't think of it this way, pervert!"

"So why are you bringing your face closer to me now?"

"That…"

Ayase's face reddened in an instant, and her eyes turned into >.< shape.

"There is no special meaning about it!"

"……"

Clearly uncomfortable, Ayase glanced at me:

"Do you have a problem with that?"

"No, I don't…"

Ha… This girl… she is as unreasonable as Kirino.

"Ha… then."

What should I do now?

"Anyway, please come in."

"Uhm… sorry for intruding…"

At least Ayase didn't say, "Are you going to lure me into your room and sexually harass me again?"

"Please sit here."

"Uhm…"

Ayase sat down with a submissive attitude… Compared to her outburst just now, it's unimaginable.

I poured some fruit juice for Ayase, and went to wash my face and asked her again:

"There are many things I wanted to ask… Although the first is… Ayase?"

"Yes?"

"Why do you have my home's key?"

"Of course I duplicated it!"

"How could you duplicate my key…?"

"……"

"Don't you have anything to say?"

"…From another method, that's all."

"Has my room's key been leaked into the black market ?"

I felt very uneasy!

After that, no matter how I asked, Ayase refused to tell me how she got the key, thus I had no choice but to leave it aside.

"Ah… so… Ayase, why are you here so early in the morning?"

Maybe asking a girl directly like that isn't the best method, but I was so tired. Please allow me to speak a little casually.

"Ah… that's because…"

The reason Ayase choose the morning to visit is because she knew I would be alone….

She placed her hand into her bag…

And took out a kitchen knife.

"Yaaaaaaa!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!"

I jumped up and tried to run away, but in an instant my wrist was firmly held. It was Ayase. Just like at Summer Comiket when she caught Kirino, her hand latched onto mine!

"Ack… If I'm about to be killed…!"

"I will not kill you! Look closer!"

"Wow!?"

I turned around and shuddered when I saw the knife which was inches away from my neck. But on closer look , this knife was warped in plastic bag.

"Ha… why do you think that I'm going to kill you?"

"…You didn't say anything and pulled out a knife, how am I supposed to interpret that?"

"……You should have at least looked first."

"Alright, alright."

Ack……

"Geez… why does it turn out like this every time?"

When I saw Ayase holding a knife, my body instinctively felt danger!

"If you aren't here to kill me… what is with the knife?"

"Of course it's a present… I'm here to give you this present."

"To celebrate me moving out? ...You? Give me a present?"

"Yes… is something wrong with that?"

"Well it's not, but…"

It would be so easy for a misunderstanding! This girl!

To celebrate moving out with a knife, it was quite a suitable present.

The truth is I didn't have a kitchen knife, so it was a great help — but the combination of 'Ayase and knife…' how should I put it… It could only make me feel uncomfortable.

"I will use it with care... It looks quite good."

Because this is Ayase's present.

"That's because I had researched about it and chose one that is especially good for slashing."

"Yeah… I see..."

You didn't have any other motive, did you?

"I'm sorry for coming here so soon. I can't take any time off after school…"

"Alright, alright. Who did you hear about me moving out from?"

"From onee-san."

I knew that she hardly could have heard it from Kirino or Kanako. So it was Manami.

It seemed like they had a good relationship.

"By the way, did you hear the reason for me moving out from Manami already?"

"To focus on studying, right? You will not come back home unless you get an A in the mock exam. You are amazing ~"

Manami! Thanks for omitting Kirino's part.

"Yup. This is a good chance to focus my attention into studying."

"Please do your best ~ Ah, there is something I have to say. Onee-san invited me to the celebration party for onii-san."

"Ah… so you are invited too?"

Manami! You are the best childhood friend in the world!

"Yes. Onee-san also asked me to invite Kirino."

Manami! You are a childhood friend who has meddled in way too much stuff!

"What does that mean…?"

Ayase titled her head in confusion.

Ah… well, she didn't look like she knew anything about the relationship between Kirino and Manami.

She is Kirino's best friend and she has a good relationship with Manami, but….

I scratched my nose and said:

"Kirino and Manami…have a terrible relationship..."

"Really!? Onee-san didn't seem that way…"

"Actually, Manami doesn't hate Kirino, but Kirino…"

"She hates onee-san one-sided?"

"That's right. Don't ask me why, even I'm not sure."

"Oh… it's so unexpected…"

"Unexpected? Really? Kirino and Manami have totally opposite personalities; it's understandable that they won't get along."

"Wow!"

"?"

I just said something normal, so what is with Ayase's reaction?

Could it be that she knew something that I didn't?

"Oh right, onii-san doesn't know what Kirino is like at school, right?"

"Of course, we go to different schools."

"I see. So that is it."

Knowing that I knew nothing about Kirino at school, Ayase straightened her chest.

"At school, Kirino is very gentle. She always takes care of others… Everyone admires her like a goddess."

"……"

Really? That arrogant stubborn little sister of mine was admired as a goddess? Although I had my doubt, but now that I think back, I remembered that when I first met Ayase, Kirino truly did act like a nice kitten. Although it was gross to see her pretend to act like that.

——— But she never shows me that side.

Wait a second… could it be… it's not just an act, but rather another side of her?

"At somewhere I couldn't see… Kirino… is like that?"

"Yes."

"…Ha…"

So that's why Ayase thought that 'at school Kirino' should get along well with Manami.

"But a long time ago, when they met, Kirino's attitude was way too excessive."

"Ahaha, when she is with onii-san, Kirino always looks energetic."

"It's not! We quarrel almost every time!"

"Uhm… that's why… I was scared too… That day was the first time I saw Kirino acting like that…"

"……"

You meant that day? When I pushed Kirino down and touched her breast by accident, she beat me to a pulp and kicked me out of the house…

Well… that was truly surprising.

"Since that time, we spent the rest of the day talking about onii-san."

"You all badmouthed me didn't you!? The disgusting pervert onii-san should go die, right?"

"Ahahaha, that was basically it… But let's stop here."

"Hey! Why are you stopping at the most interesting place?"

"Heehee ~ asking about girls' conversation is rude, onii-san."

Your smile is even ruder!

Hm… Even though I had made up my mind to stop sexually harassing Ayase, I felt my resolve weaken.

Ayase licked her lips and said:

"If onee-san and Kirino's relationship is bad, then we should do something."

"I had already given up on this. But if there is something you need me to do, just ask."

"Um. I think it is onee-san's wish too."

Creating a chance for them to make up.

"Good. Then let's do something!"

I made my decision.

"This is onii-san!"

"I have been taken care of by Manami so many times. So I wanted her to make up with Kirino. As long as this goal could be made to come true, I would do anything."

That's a given. Or should I say, as long as this is something for Manami, I could gladly bet my life for anything.

"Allow me to help. Onee-san had helped me too."

"That's for sure. I couldn't do anything on my own."

"Uhm, I knew that onii-san couldn't do anything on his own."

Hey! Don't say it…

And so…

To improve the relationship between Manami and Kirino, I joined forces with Ayase.

"Still, it's impossible for Kirino and Manami's relationship to become good immediately."

"Really?"

"Yes."

Ayase didn't know how badly Kirino treated Manami.

Just like the step mother from Cinderella.

"I need to find someone who can restrain Kirino…"

"Do you have someone in mind?"

"Yes…"

The first one that appeared in my head is the always smiling Makishima Saori. The last time we left her out of things, she unleashed her Super-High-Class lady persona

on us. With her calming nature and her skill in handling peoples' relationships, she is the best choice to suppress Kirino's violent nature.

Aside from that the only other option is someone like Ayase — who is Kirino's best friend.

"Just leave the planning to me."

"Please."

Ayase nodded and stood up.

"Huh? You have to go now?"

"Yes. Everything here is done."

"…I see."

Don't end the conversation in a way that only a masochist can enjoy!

"I should go to school now…Although there is still some time left…"

"Haha, then goodbye."

Seeing my lost expression, Ayase seemed to have a satisfied smile and went to the door.

Ring

When we were about to walk to the door, the doorbell rang.

"Who could it be?"

"Just leave it to me. I need to go out anyway."

"Ah, hey!"

Ayase opened the door —

Only to come face to face with Kuroneko. They just stood there staring at each other.

"……"

"……"

…… What a silence!

Let me explain. Kuroneko's real name is Gokou Ruri, she was my junior once, she is also one of Kirino's best

friends. A while ago, we were going out. We ended up breaking up, so allow me to omit this part.

Anyway, why was she here too?

Ayase started bickering with Kuroneko.

"…Sorry, who are you?"

"That's my line, who are you?"

What a cold atmosphere!

"My name is Aragaki Ayase."

"Aragaki Ayase…? I have heard of this name."

I took this chance and introduced Ayase to Kuroneko.

"She is Kirino's classmate. You two met during the first time we went to Summer Comiket."

"Ah… I remember now."

Then I introduced Kuroneko to Ayase:

"This is Kuroneko, Kirino's otaku friend."

"I knew it."

Ayase's eyes turned to me:

"Onii-san's ex-girlfriend, right?"

"…Yes."

She merciless attacked my wound…

Can you please think about my fragile heart?

"…Okay, so — ex-girlfriend Kuroneko-san? Why are you at onii-san's place so soon in the morning?"

"…Say Ayase, why are you acting like you are my current girlfriend?"

Ayase was clearly shaken by this.

"You you you… What are you saying! Don't say something so weird!"

Tsuntsun!

"Hey, why are you still holding that knife? Stop! Even with a plastic bag, it's too strange!"

"You reap what you sow!"

At that time, someone pulled my sleeve.

I turned around and saw Kuroneko looking at me with a blank expression.

"Ah… sorry for ignoring you, Kuroneko."

Because Ayase interrupted me… I was a little confused …

Why did you come to my place so early in the morning ?

When I was about to ask this question, I suddenly noticed something.

"Kuroneko… you…"

"Yes?"

Our eyes met for a second, and then Kuroneko blushed and looked down. No matter how many times I saw it, she still looked so cute!

"Uniform… you have changed into a new uniform."

"…Yes."

Kuroneko is now wearing a uniform with black skirt and red tie. It suited Kuroneko's black hair and pure white skin so much! It was as good as her normal cosplay outfit or the white outfit she wore during our first date. Kuroneko looked even more mature in this uniform.

"What… do you think?"

"I think… you look so mature…"

"Is… that all?"

"Ah… but… I feel a little lonely."

Because I could no longer see Kuroneko in her previous uniforms.

"Me too… I get a special feeling from that uniform too."

"I see."

"Um."

Went to the same school, joined in the same club…

Even that time was short, but it was also fun. It'd be great if Kuroneko thinks so too.

Kuroneko clenched her hands and looked up at me:

"I still have that uniform at my home… If senpai wishes, I could wear it for you."

"Hey! Don't make it sound like I have a uniform fetish! "

"…Aren't I right?"

"Of course not! I meant that this uniform brought back memories!"

"Fufu… I see."

"Ugh…"

She just teased me again didn't she? Our relationship is now a bit special. As long as she could be sure that I wouldn't tease her, she enjoyed teasing me very much! Always with a hint of an erotic atmosphere! What a perverted cat!

"Please wait onii-san."

My sleeve was pulled from behind. I turned back and saw…

Ayase with her blank expression, her face drew close to mine…

"Can you please not leave me aside?"

She is angry! But she is still cute while angry!

"Ah! Sorry!"

"Ha, ara ara ~ so you are still here~? I'm sorry to enter our own world, but this can't be helped, this man's soul already belongs to me… yes… forever…"

Kuro…Kuroneko...please don't irritate Ayase anymore !

Ack! I suddenly felt a chill on my back. I secretly looked back at Ayase —

"Onii-san… is yours?"

"Yes!!!"

Ayase's eyes suddenly lost its light… No… she laughed weakly like a demon that had lost its soul.

"Aha ~ what a strange thing to say. Didn't you two already break up?"

"…Hm… Break up… it's just a temporary retreat so I could advance to the next stage."

"…I have no idea what are you saying, but I'm sure that you no longer qualify to call yourself Kirino's friend. "

"Why are you saying that?"

"It's simple. Kirino once said that she hated anyone who is going out with onii-san, that she can't stand if she is not the first in his heart; didn't onii-san break up with you and choose Kirino instead. So be a good girl and leave onii-san's side. If you are Kirino's friend, then you should act like one, am I wrong?"

"You are wrong."

Kuroneko puffed her chest and said:

"We have different ways of thinking, Aragaki Ayase."

"I see. Then you are Kirino's enemy."

"You are also wrong. I'm Kirino's true friend."

Both of them ignored me and started quarrelling. Their debate had gradually escalated.

"Since when have you looked like Kirino's friend? You did something that Kirino didn't like and you still call yourself her friend? You thieving cat!"

"Thieving cat?"

Kuroneko's clenched fist trembled slightly.

"Fine, then listen to me well ——"

Kuroneko's eyes widened, she took a deep breath and shouted:

"To me, it is fine even if Kyousuke 'beep' his own blood-related little sister!"

"What… what?"

Kuro…

*Kuroneko!!!

"That… that's impossible! I can't do it!"

"In that case ~ you will become Kirino's enemy when the time comes."

"Guh!"

Ayase bit her mouth and answered Kuroneko:

"That time will never come! Pervert pervert pervert pervert pervert!!!!"

"Hm… go ahead and call me a pervert. I don't care."

…She had gone all out… I… could no longer escape…

"Ah… Kuroneko."

"…What?"

"About… well…"

What should I say to return Kuroneko to normal… I made up my decision and said:

"Did Kirino say that she want to 'beep' with me?"

I just voiced my question, but Kuroneko was stunned, as if she was frozen in time:

"……"

A few seconds later…

" ~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~Yahhhhhh!"

Just like an octopus that was about to be cooked, Kuroneko's whole body trembled…

"That! That's just...! Anyways, it's not…!"

Kuroneko's hands waved around in panic.

"That… that is just a what-if! A hypothetical assumption!"

"Ah, I see, you only made an assumption."

Still, what a terrible assumption! There is no way I could ' beep' my little sister!

Are you okay, denpa girl?

But — thankfully Kirino wasn't here! If she heard it just now, I would be in real trouble!

"An-Anyway, please come in first. Although I have nothing to offer you."

"Oh… Um… ah ~ sorry for intruding!"

In order to make Kuroneko stop this topic, I invited her into my room. Because of the shock from Kuroneko's shameless words, Ayase was still stunned at the entrance .

Kuroneko took a look at my room and said without holding back:

"It's a good room."

She smiled.

"Really…?"

I think this room is too old already.

"Yes. Although this room is old, your father did a good job of finding it. Sturdy pillars, thick walls — it has a feeling of senpai's father."

"Oh."

"Yes. Fufu, he sure does love his son."

"Ha ~ I see. Thank you. By the way, why are you still addressing me as 'senpai'?"

Even though we were no longer senpai and kouhai.

Kuroneko smiled and look at me.

"…Even we were no longer in the same school, senpai is senpai… Or do you not want me to call you that anymore?"

I hastily shook my head.

Truly, today Kuroneko had a mature feeling…she looked so elegant…

"Kuroneko-senpai" — no, "Ruri-senpai". I suddenly had the urge to call her that.

Ruri-senpai (yeahh!) casually brushed her hair.

"Is there something inconvenient for you when living alone?"

"…Well… if I have to say… meals?"

"I thought so too… so I brought you a bento."

Kuroneko placed a bento box wrapped in golden cloth on the table. Kuroneko's sewing skill is so amazing.

"Here is for morning…and this is for lunch… and this is fruit juice."

Akagi. Manami. Kirino. Ayase. Kanako and — Kuroneko.

All of you gave me presents when I moved out. I thank you all from the bottom of my heart. Sorry for bothering you.

"Sorry for bothering you."

"No, I'm the one who should apologize… coming here so soon in the morning…I don't have time after school due to my little sisters…"

So she took the early bus and came to my house…

…I'm moved…

"Thank you… I'm very happy."

Hearing that, Kuroneko looked away from me.

"It was nothing… Ah, can you open it and see for yourself? I added some more meat like you wanted."

"…You still remember? That…"

I removed the cloth and saw the bento box – it was the same one during our first date…at that time, Kuroneko was in her Kamineko mode.

It should be a painful memory… but why… I felt so nostalgic…

"Ah. It's really a sandwich."

"Of course. This was the only one I wasn't satisfied with during my holy war."

"Ha ha ha… I see… This is God's retribution[9]."

Seeing Kuroneko's proud expression, I couldn't help but smile.

Kuroneko and I looked at each other…

Bang!!!!

A very loud sound interrupted us.

Of course, Ayase was the one who made it. Ayase thrust her finger at my face:

"You left me aside again!"

…How could I forget about you? But from your look, it'd be more dangerous if I casually pressed a wrong button of yours.

Turning back to Ayase, Kuroneko shot her a serious glance.

"It's better if you would have gone back."

"What are you saying?"

"Nothing… Uh? Did I say something wrong?"

With a dull voice, Ayase calmly pointed out the nonsensical part in Kuroneko's words.

"What you said about you being too busy after school is nonsense. Am I right? You only want to let onii-san see

your new uniform, you also choose this time because the chance of meeting him alone is higher, didn't you?"

"That… I…"

"Looks like I hit the bull's eye."

Ayase got carried away because she was able to make Kuroneko speechless.

"Say… Ayase… you also said that 'I'm going to be busy after school so I have to go to your place in the morning…'."

Ugh! Ayase suddenly elbowed me in the stomach.

"Ugh… Argh…"

"…Did you say something?"

"No… nothing at all."

"I see… Then let's continue, Kuroneko."

Ayase returned to her quarrel with Kuroneko.

At the same time, Kuroneko managed to recover.

"So… what's wrong with that? I wasn't lying when I said I'm going to be busy after school. Beside, this is none of your business."

"…None of my business?"

Ayase clearly didn't accept this explanation.

"Yes, aren't I right?"

"No… you aren't."

"Really? So what is your relationship with senpai?"

"That's… Kirino."

"…Ara, so if there is no Kirino, then there are no relationship between you and senpai anymore?"

"No… It's not…"

"So, what are you?"

"…Kuh."

Yeah, what exactly is the relationship between me and Ayase?

We are both my little sister's acquaintance, but our relationship is not just as simple as that. But it is not like we aren't friends, but… It's hard to explain… Even Ayase couldn't answer…

"…I… Onii-san and I… our relationship… is…"

With a troubled expression, Ayase bit her lips, shot a glance at me and said:

"Our relationship is between a sexual harasser and his victim."

"What?"

That is your answer? So unbelievable!

"…Senpai? What is going on?"

"It's a misunderstanding! I used to crack jokes which seemed like sexual harassment to her, but I no longer do that anymore! I swear upon my life!"

"I see. That's fine."

Kuroneko once more easily forgave me and turned back to Ayase:

"Hm, so there is no relationship between you two… Even if you counted this, for you to squeeze between me and senpai is impossible. Hurry up and just leave."

"I refuse. I have the right to interrupt your relationship ! What can you do against that?"

"Oh ~ Isn't that funny? Pray tell, what gives you the right?"

"I can't accept that!"

"…W-What?"

Wow… Today Ayase… is even more unreasonable than Kuroneko and Kirino.

Look, she still raises her chest with an pompous attitude.

Kuroneko didn't give up:

"What do you mean 'I can't accept that'?"

"I meant exactly what I said, I can't accept that. Even I'm not sure why, but in short I won't accept that. I will do everything I can to stop your shameless behavior! "

"It's not a shameless behavior. Since the beginning, we were destined to be together… Don't force me to curse you to death."

Wow… they had just met, but their relationship is already so bad…

But based on my experience during this year, even if they quarrelled, nothing too bad would happen. In fact, their relationship could even improve afterward. Still, I can't allow them to make a mess right here.

I rushed between them and shouted:

"Calm down you two! There is no need to go that far!"

"Who do you think we are arguing for?"

I was repelled by both of them

"…I'm sorry."

Me? I'm the reason?

True, Kuroneko is angry because Ayase tried to butt into her relationship with me.

But why did Ayase get so angry at Kuroneko?

Just like how Kirino hated Manami.

It's so hard to understand beautiful girls…..

Kuroneko took a look at her cell phone and began acting hastily.

"Ah… I have to go to school now…"

"Oh right… your school seems so far away now…"

Seeing that, Ayase smiled coldly.

"Ara ~ it's really hard for you. So, Kuroneko, it can't be helped, just leave onii-san to me and go to school ~"

"Wha-What? Did you want to eat bento together with him too? Just like the rumor said, you are a fearsome woman…"

"No! It's not like that! Why are you always saying something to make me uncomfortable! Wh-Why do I have to eat bento together with onii-san and feed him by asking him to ' Ah ~~~~~~~~'?"

"…I never said such thing…"

"Ah!"

Ayase's face immediately turned red.

This girl was too deep in her self-satisfying illusion and caused this hilarious scene all by herself…

Ayase coughed twice and said:

"There is no need for me to be here anymore, see you later!"

She ran away.

Yep, she was running away as fast as she could.

Seeing this, Kuroneko asked me like nothing happened:

"…Why did this girl come here?"

"To give me a present for moving out. Also to talk with me about the party."

"Party?"

I told Kuroneko the short version about my party on the weekend as well as my plan to help Kirino and Manami make up.

"…I see."

Kuroneko nodded.

"So… this party… are Saori and I invited too?"

"Of course. The more people that come to help persuade Kirino the better. I'd be very happy if you two can come."

"I see."

Kuroneko smiled satisfyingly and stood up.

"I should get going."

"Let me walk you to the bus station."

"I'm fine by myself. If you do that, you won't be able to eat my bento in time."

"I see."

"Besides…"

Kuroneko's voice tensed up.

"I'm not just coming here today to deliver your bento … there is something else…"

"Something else?"

"Um… that… about what couldn't be said between us until we were alone…"

"…You are right."

Kuroneko and I looked at each other.

——— Our eyes fixed on each others.

Yes… I have something that I must say to Kuroneko.

Even though I had spoken with Kuroneko's father, but … Kuroneko always ran away whenever I brought this up… so I hadn't talked with her.

"Now, I can hear you answer."

"Um."

Kuroneko pales. Even though she is standing motionless, her legs start to tremble.

She probably had guessed what I'm about to say. But … hearing me say it directly probably scared her… Still, I couldn't afford not to say it.

"…I"

"Um."

"Before I properly resolve things up with Kirino, I won't go out with anyone."

"…Um."

Kuroneko looked down before turning her head to me.

"Good… it's the same as my plan…"

A gentle smile.

"Then let's do our best to resolve things as well as we can."

By the way —

The sandwich that Kuroneko made for me was extremely delicious.

After school, I came back to my room to study.

"Um ~ today's lesson ~~"

Following my time table, I gradually finished my homework little by little. Learning by studying like this suited me unexpectedly well.

Even if there was a limit for what I was capable of doing, I knew that I couldn't do what can't be done. That used to be my normal life style.

I'm still thinking the same way as before. I don't want to change my life style.

But… as long as I pursue something with vigor and enthusiasm —

I could do so many things that I didn't expect.

Even if at first look it seemed impossible, there must be a way to solve it.

Convincing my super scary father, solving a girl's misunderstanding, improving my relationship with my annoying little sister…

I felt that something inside me had changed; from 'I couldn't do something that can't be done" to 'I could do it if I try'.

It was 8:00 PM when the door bell rang.

"Who would come at this time?"

After making sure that my lock was still hanging, I opened my door.

Outside, dressed in a thin coat and with a terrible expression…

"Dad?"

"Um."

"…Why are you here? Are you on the way home?"

"No… I had already gone home."

He picked something up from the ground.

"Did you make dinner yet? How about this?"

"…"

Since I moved out, everyone had been worried about me and gave me meals… This morning I also received a bento from Manami.

Curious, I tried to tell what it was from the smell.

"…Curry…?"

"Today your Mom made dinner."

I thought so too. My Mom only knew how to make curry.

…This smell made me miss my home a little…

"Thank you ~ Are you going to come in?"

"Sorry for intruding."

I opened the door and let him in… I felt a little strange and embarrassed.

I have never thought about it, but I guess after I became an adult, it would be normal for my parents to visit me.

At that time I wondered who I would live together with?

Dad casually took a look around.

"Kyousuke, how do you feel about living alone?"

"Ah… at least I think that I can manage for now…"

"I see."

Dad's answer is always short and directly to the point.

…Today, he looked a bit happy?

"About the exam, have you studied?"

He saw the table with the homework half way done.

…I felt a little embarrassed.

"Ah… That… I definitely will."

"Hmm."

Dad smiled and walked toward the kitchen.

"Huh? Kyousuke, what's that refrigerator?"

—— Lying is impossible… what should I do…

"That… that… that's a present for me to celebrate me moving out."

"Really? Then we should give them something in return."

"…I received it from Kirino."

"……"

No good! His expression changed!

"…Let's talk about Kirino later."

"Ha? Ah…"

Looked like…he didn't get angry?

I lowered my guard for a second, and then —

"Kyousuke, what is that over here?"

"Um? What?"

"That."

He pointed behind my back.

…With a dreadful feeling, I turned around.

On my bed was 'The Beginning of Imouto-wife'!

I'm done for…

You might be wondering why I'm done for;

Q : Say, why did I have to move outside and live alone ?

A : Because my parents suspected the possibility of me laying my hands on my little sister.

Q : Ok ~ so what is the box that my father is asking about?

A : The Beginning of Imouto-wife ~ The Forbidden Life of the Two — in other words, eroge.

"……"

Am I going to die?

I braced myself for the inevitable…

Dad suddenly dropped his shoulders and sighed.

"…Ha… Kid, you are too careless."

"…Ack? Dad… Aren't you going to beat me?"

"Beat you? ...This is from Kirino, isn't it?"

"——————"

Dad… so you already knew? ...Ah… that's expected if you think about it carefully. He was never fooled by my lie. He just pretended to be tricked by me so Kirino could keep her hobby.

He closed his eyes and massaged his temples. And then he looked at me…

"I had decided this once before — I leave Kirino to you ."

"Dad."

"So, should something unfortunate happen, things will not go like last time."

Hearing that, even someone as dense as me could understand.

"I know."

"Good."

He nodded and took a folder of A4 papers out of his bag.

"Kyousuke, that's for you."

"…What's that?"

"Just take a look."

I did as he said.

There were a dozen smaller folders inside. Date, obtained goods, price, etc.

What is that? Diary? No… A report?

"You want me to write?"

He nodded and I looked back at the folder in my hands.

The title was censored. By the way, my Dad is a police officer… could it be… oh wah wah wah…?

"Is… isn't that a paper for convicts?"

"No."

"Really?"

"Ahh."

……

"Anyway, just write it down."

"You want me to write what down?"

"Look at yourself. Aside from the refrigerator, you had received so many other things. So in order to thank them properly later, make sure to write it all down. Also, write down the progress of your studies and paste the receipts of whatever you buy in the folder."

…How troublesome… But that was for my parents to make sure how much money they needed to give me…

"Alright, alright…."

…Anyway, I only need to write down a monthly report, right?

I spread the folder on my table and started writing.

"About things I received, I only need to write down the sender's name, right?"

"Yes."

Alright… after I moved out, I received:

A refrigerator from Kirino, last year's mock exam's question from Manami, a bento box from Kanako, a

toaster from Akagi, a kitchen knife from Ayase, two bentos from Kuroneko, and one more bento from Manami…..

Really… I don't want him to see this!

Just looking at this made me feel so horrible.

From the record alone, I appeared to be a bastard who forced other girls to take care of me…

"Hurry up Kyousuke. I want to take a look."

"…Ugh… Um um…"

I hadn't done anything shameful… but it was like being interrogated!

"…Please."

Well, I would be found out immediately if I lied anyway. Dad took my record and started looking.

Thud

"That hurt!"

He punched me!

"You bastard! What is the meaning of this!"

"Please wait! There are reasons for that!"

"I was worried about you, but you lived so luxuriously every day?"

"I didn't do anything shameful! I swear!"

Kuh… looked like I needed to explain to him… when I was thinking that…

Ring

The door bell rang again.

"Someone is at the door, Kyousuke."

"…Yeah."

Who would come this late?

"Go take a look."

"Yeah, yeah…"

My Dad was still mad, so I quickly ran to the door.

In front of me is the same delivery man from before!

"Kousaka-san, this is for you! From… Mikagami-san, a 'Special handmade cabinet' and 'Ultimate Naked Series - Imouto Figurine Gift Set.' Is there a problem with anything?"

……

Don't you have training!!! You damn stupid delivery man!!!!

That damn Mikagami, so that's your present for me? I'm gonna kill you!

"Kyousuke… what is… this?"

"Ah... um… this… ah…"

I had totally given up… how could I explain this to my angry father...?

That night I assembled the cabinet; my father even stayed to help...

Chapter 3

第三章
ore no imouto ga konnani kawaii wake ga nai

It was finally the day of my moving out party. It was a day to rest and relax. Earlier this morning, Manami and Kuroneko had arrived and started preparing. Both of them wore casual clothing… Well, Kuroneko's cosplay outfit certainly didn't go well with an apron…

"…We should prepare some soup…"

"Not a bad idea. I agree… right now, we need…"

"We can eat together… what about drinks… do we need something else?"

"We have to consider tomorrow too; Kyou-chan is still unable to cook."

"Um… Then we should make something in advance for him, I'd be more comfortable if we did that."

"Want to go get some food together?"

"…Hm, sure."

Both of them worked things out perfectly.

They really were amazing… I didn't have to do anything.

"Hmmm… please show me your skill Tamura-senpai … let me see the power of the Tamura family heir."

"I… I'm not that good."

It was unexpected, but Kuroneko's treatment toward Manami was normal. Even Ayase was close to her, the plain Manami is amazing.

By the way, Saori, dressed in her regular attire also came with Kuroneko.

"We are going to have seven people? In that case, this room is a bit small. “

“— I understand. Just leave it to me."

And then she left. True, seven people inside my room was a bit crowded. I had also given it some thought, but in the end I decided to leave things to Saori.

…Why? Because Saori might come up with a good idea…

And so, I didn't have anything do. I killed time by rechecking my English lesson.

Although when I tried to help…...

"Are you an idiot? We are here because of you."

"Yes, yes ~ Kyou-chan should just go back to studying ~"

Both of them chased me out.

And that was why I was reading book and waiting for guests to arrive.

Ding dong

"I'm coming!"

I opened the door —

"Oh ~"

In front of me was Kirino, she didn't smile or talk with me like usual. Today, she was wearing tight black autumn clothing.

"You came."

"…Didn't you ask me to come."

"Yes… Thank you for coming."

"……"

Hearing my rare serious appreciation, Kirino looked inside.

Well… whatever…

"Come in."

"Ah, sure."

Kirino looked at Manami's and Kuroneko's shoes at the entrance and took off her shoes. When we passed the entrance, Kirino suddenly went 'ah'.

In front of her was a big handmade cabinet, which was worth at least ¥100 000. For a collector, it's something that came from a god. Inside was a UV-blocking picture frame that I got separately, and neon lights which could be turned on to illuminate the inside.

Well… right now… there were naked imouto figures inside…

"That… that is..."

"…Don't say it, Kirino."

"You really assembled it with Dad?"

It was true! It was like a torture for me!

At the time, after I checked the cabinet, Dad said, "It can't be helped. I'm only helping you because the manual said that assembling it with two people is much easier."

We worked together, father and son. I hadn't gotten that feeling since elementary school. It felt a little nostalgic.

When I placed those erotic figures inside the cabinet with Dad, my heart was full of doubt… Who could understand them? I wanted to die when Kuroneko and Manami asked me what it was.

"So, did Dad like 'The Beginning of Imouto-wife' too?"

"Don't assume things on your own!"

If… if Dad… actually liked eroge too… Ack… I wanted to vomit blood…...

"…Say, isn't this a figure from 'The Beginning of Imouto-wife'?"

"I can't believe it! How could you make this! What art!"

"Mikagami gave that to me…"

"Wow! You made such a good friend. I feel so happy for you!"

"Yeah, yeah, I was so moved that I almost cried."

I will definitely kill him.

"Amazing… I want one like this too ~"

My little sister's face remained motionless, she looked like she was looking at her child. Her small face reddened with a happy expression… and she was drooling.

"Kuh…"

Looks like my punishment for Mikagami should be 30 hits with a baseball bat instead of capital punishment.

I took a cloth I had prepared and covered the cabinet. Kirino said:

"About…"

"Hm?"

"My room is now full, there are no more places for new figures ~"

"…You already have that much huh?... So?"

"So… you are gonna bring it back home right? Can I place my figures inside too?"

"…Huh?"

Oh right… she thought that when I got home, I would throw this away? Nah, this is worth more than ¥100 000, there is no way I could throw it away.

"…Sure… go ahead… feel free to use it…"

"Really!? Thank you~!"

She only thank me during times like this!

"….."

Somehow, I felt a little embarrassed, so I looked away.

"Well well ~ you have decided to come."

Kuroneko walked to us.

"You arrived too soon… Ah~ what a nice smell~"

"I used my 'dark magic' as a part of the cuisine… Just you wait."

…Good, just as planned. In case you forgot, I have to remind you that this 'celebration party' also acted as a chance for Kirino and Manami to make up. Both Saori and Kuroneko agreed to help.

First step is to lure Kirino into the kitchen with Manami. That was why Kuroneko was here to greet her.

I was kind of worried because Saori wasn't here, but I had no choice now….

Kirino suddenly seemed like she remembered something:

"Say, so there are only you guys and Saori for this party?"

"Not really. There will be someone else."

"Oh…? Could it be Hinata-chan? I saw strange shoes at the entrance."

Hinata-chan is one of Kuroneko's little sisters. The siscon-Kirino often looked at them with evil eyes.

"No."

"So… Who?"

"Like Sena's elder brother."

"Ah, one of your rare male friends huh?"

Don't make that assumption. I have a lot of friends!

"And, like Ayase."

"What? Ayase? You, could it be you…!"

"I don't know what misunderstanding you are thinking, but Ayase is the one who suggested this party."

"I still don't get it. Explain it to me."

Good question.

"About that…"

Ayase suggested the party. Manami told Ayase to invite Kirino. Ayase and I agreed to make sure to invite Kirino so they could made up with each other. That's what Ayase told Manami. I repeated it to Saori and Kuroneko — If I explained it, Kirino would probably have interrupted me so many times. So I quickly made eye contact with Kuroneko…...

"You should ask her yourself."

"Ha? What does that mean…?"

Before Kirino could finish, Kuroneko suddenly snuck behind Kirino, put her hands under Kirino's armpits, and held her in place. At the same time, Manami came out of the kitchen.

"Please ~ to meet you~ Kirino-chan."

"_____"

Kirino froze. I got the feeling that she would have exploded in a few seconds, so I opened my mouth:

"Okay Kirino. Before you ask 'What is the meaning of this?!', please listen… Manami?"

"Um, okay…"

Manami quickly explained things to Kirino.

That she was Ayase's acquaintance, and they had a good relationship.

That Ayase wanted her to make up with Kirino.

And so…

"…That's why they helped me to ask Kirino-chan to join in this party."

"……"

Kirino stayed silent.

Ah! Is she angry?

"I'm sorry because we kind of tricked you. But there is almost no other chance for you two to meet so….."

"……..."

Kirino shot me a fierce glare…… *Jiiiiiiiiiiiiiiiiiiiii*

"I myself… really want you two to…"

Actually, until Ayase suggested that idea, I wasn't really thinking about inviting my shameless otaku little sister. I'm happy as long as they are here.

"Today is my party, so can you please temporarily hold it down?"

Seeing me clap my hands, my little sister turned back to Kuroneko.

"…So that's it. You are on the same boat as him huh?"

Same boat as me huh?

"It's not like we are doing anything bad."

"I don't want to admit it. But that's true…"

Kirino said unhappy:

"This guy's bad habit of sticking his nose into other peoples' business seems to have spread to you!"

"Pfffff." Kuroneko spat out. "Maybe you are right."

"…Kuroneko."

"Because if it was me from before, I wouldn't participate in this kind of party just so you two could make up. It's not my style."

Ha?

"So… because of senpai's mistake, we made a weird choice."

"Am I a virus?"

"Yes."

Hey!

Kuroneko laughed and said to Kirino:

"So just give up. We will keep sticking our noses into your business."

Kirino grunted in annoyance and muttered:

"You guys have a lot to explain."

Ah? She is so obedient today.

Could it be that she is about to start complaining?

"Kirino-chan, about…"

Manami looked seriously into Kirino's eyes:

"I always wanted to have a proper talk with Kirino-chan. I don't know what caused our bad relationship… but let's have a talk."

Yes. Without that, we wouldn't solve anything. Why did Kirino hate Manami so much? Both Manami and I had wondered that for a long time.

If they both speak their true feelings, we could surely have a breakthrough. Even if their relationship doesn't improve, at least I would know why their relationship was so bad to begin with.

Hearing that, Kirino slowly looked up.

"Fine. A small talk is fine."

"Really?"

"Yes. But not now. We will discuss it later."

"Hey Kirino —"

"What? Don't make weird assumptions. There is a reason for this."

"…Ho? Is that so? I had no idea."

What a charming smile, Ruri-senpai. You looked so erotic!

For some unknown reason, Kirino's face reddened.

Um? What?

"When I talk with Manami… will you be present?"

"Of course I will!"

Or who do you think will stop your quarrelling if it breaks out?

"I didn't mean that… this is related to you too."

"Related to me?"

"Yes. When that time comes, you have to decide what you should do next. If you don't think about it carefully … Then… anyway, we will talk about it later."

"Listen to me, you are really bad at expressing yourself !"

Really, I didn't understand a single bit of what she just said!

Kuroneko shot me an ice-cold glare.

"…Are you an idiot, senpai?"

"Wah?"

Could it be that I'm the only one who still didn't understand?

I looked at Manami, only to see my childhood friend's smooth smile, as if she had already grasped the whole situation.

"You really are thoughtful of your onii-chan."

"Ha? It, it's not like that."

"Really?"

…Manami coughed and clapped her hands together:

"…Let's talk about it later. After the mock exam is over and Kyou-chan returns home!"

"Ok…"

…Looked like the 'fixing Kirino and Manami's relationship project' was temporarily put on hold.

"If you want to improve their relationship, you'd better study hard, senpai."

"Yeah, seems so."

I smiled and nodded with Kuroneko.

Ayase arrived after that. She greeted me and asked seriously:

"I'm sorry to arrive so late. Did the fight already begin?
"

"…It has been postponed."

The real fight would be the words they will speak to each other…

"What happened?"

"Looks like they need me for it, so they won't do it before then."

"Ah… I see... their true intention."

"Do you understand what is going on?"

"Because they don't want to distract onii-san before the exam. Can't you understand that?"

"Ah… ah…"

"What an idiot! Why are you hesitating now?"

"It has only been a dozen seconds since you arrived and my heart has already been shattered!"

What are you doing? Did you give me the kitchen knife so that I could commit seppuku?[10]

"That's divine retribution."

"For real?"

True… the idiot I was should just go die.

Still standing at the entrance, I called to Kirino.

"Kirino! You are a great little sister who is so considerate towards your aniki!"

"Shut up! Go to hell!"

Weeeee *Bang*

"That hurt!"

Why was I hit by an alarm clock thrown by my little sister?

I turned back towards Ayase with a red mark on my forehead:

"See? See how considerate that little sister is toward her aniki who is about to take an important exam?"

"Well… well…"

Ayase is troubled, so cute!!!!

She hesitated:

"What… what a great sibling relationship."

"How is that a great sibling relationship?!"

Both Kirino and I yelled out at the same time.

"Ayase, come here."

Kirino ran to the entrance, dragged Ayase away, and said:

"There are a lot of things that I want to ask you."

"Ki-Kirino… you sound so scary…"

"You seem to have done a lot of things behind my back ."

"That… that…"

Kirino probably had a lot to say when her best friend got along with her arch nemesis, Manami.

"What is it? Say it."

Kirino urged Ayase…...

"Ah… Um… That… that's because…"

Ayase removed her shoes, walked closer to Kirino and said:

"It's all Kanako's fault!"

You sold Kanako out??

Of course, that nonsense reason couldn't hold against Kirino. She calmly countered with:

"Ah, really? Then I should thank Kanako."

"Ha?"

Kirino's unexpected words made Ayase speechless.

"Kirino… aren't you angry?"

"I have no reason to be angry. Because Ayase didn't know about the bad relationship between Manami and me, and you did it for my sake, right?"

"Kirino…"

"Thank you, Ayase."

"Um!"

Ayase blushed and nodded.

Seeing that, Kuroneko interrupted in surprise:

"…You are very gentle toward your school friend."

What a coincidence Kuroneko! I was thinking the same !

"Ara ~ are you jealous?"

"I'm not!"

Kuroneko immediately looked away.

She was clearly jealous. Either that or she didn't like that Kirino got along with Ayase, who she had fought with two days ago. What a cute girl.

"Hm hm ~ because I'm Kirino's best friend, of course she wouldn't treat me like you, Kuroneko-san."

Ayase hugged Kirino and boasted.

"Hmph! Whatever."

Seeing that, Kuroneko's inner anxiety surfaced more and more.

"…Oh Ayase… you are hugging me too tightly…"

My little sister struggled inside Ayase's arms.

That was when Saori came back.

"I'm back~"

"Welcome back~"

"Right ~"

Saori took a look inside and said:

"Ara, seems like everyone has arrived ~"

She smiled.

Since this was the first time Manami and Ayase met the beautiful Saori the high class lady, both of them froze in shock.

"Ha ~ Please to meet you. I'm Tamura Manami."

"So polite ~ I'm Saori Bajeena — gozaru." (She was still in her high class lady tone.)

"Ah… Oh… Ba Jee…?"

Looked like today Saori fused 'Makishima Saori ojou sama' and 'Saori Bajeena' together. After the first time she appeared before us without her glasses, she often repeated that. Sometime, even when she was 'Saori Bajeena', she unconsciously spoke in high class lady tone.

She… probably had a change of heart.

"No matter what, I won't change who I am."

Saori once said that.

When I was recalling my memories, Saori had finished talking with Ayase…

"Hey, hey… Ayase-chan, is Bajeena-san a foreigner?"

"I… I don't know."

Both of them were still shocked.

Saori interrupted:

"We only prepared for seven people, so just one more and everyone is present."

"Yes."

We just need Akagi now.

"…How about you Saori? Did you get a place for our party?"

"—After I spoke with the manager he said that we are allowed to use the backyard to hold our party."

"Backyard?"

"Yes. An outside party."

"I see… Not bad."

That's why you're our leader, Makishima-san.

You always knew how to make everyone happy.

So, we left Manami and Kuroneko behind and went to the backyard. On the way out Ayase asked:

"Onii-san, what is that thing covered in cloth? It wasn't here when I visited last time."

"Ahahaha ~ pay it no mind Ayase ~ Let's hurry and catch up with Kirino."

Actually, it was a life or death matter for me.

"…So suspicious."

Damn… I should have asked Kirino to help me to hide it — Suddenly, my phone beeped, signalling me of a new message… Um… looking away from Ayase now is dangerous… Who sent it anyway? Akagi?

"— Sorry Kousaka. Sena suddenly got a fever, I can't come today."

Ah, Sena got a fever? Poor guy…

"What's that, onii-san?"

Ayase asked.

"Um… my friend who I invited today can't come — his little sister got a fever."

"…Onii-san's friend…"

While Ayase and Kirino left the room, Saori went to the kitchen to chat with Manami, and I took a look at the backyard. There was a picnic set already prepared there.

…Saori is so dependable.

"Um… um?"

However, there was someone that surprised me even more here.

"Ah, hi."

It was Kanako.

"What are you doing here?" I shouted down.

"Kanako has finished her level two bento ~ hey, there were so many girls going in and out of your room ~ what is going on?"

"Your words are hard to listen to!"

How could I show my face to my neighborhood again?

"Heehee ~ Kanako has the feeling that you are going to have an erotic party~"

"Shut your mouth immediately!!!!!!"

Clank clank clank I rushed downstairs and stopped in front of Kanako!

"You, listen to me!"

When I was about to give her a piece of my mind…

"Hey! You! How do you get along with Kanako!???"

"Kanako!!! What is the meaning of this? Why are you bringing onii-san a bento?"

"Ya!"

"Ya!"

Both Kirino and Ayase questioned us.

"If you asked this way, we wouldn't be able to answer even if we could! Calm down, please!"

"…Tch" (Kirino)

"Ha… ha…" (Ayase)

Ayase grit her teeth like a berserker!!

Hey, hey! You two didn't think that I laid my hands on Kanako right?

So… did you two calm down? I looked back at Kanako and said:

"Alright ~ Kanako. You tell them about our relationship and this bento."

"Kanako ~ has been going out with Kyousuke ~ so this is a loving wife's bento ~"

"You…!!!"

I was speechless…...

Not… Not good! Not to mention Kirino, I will be killed by Ayase right now!!

Trembling in fear, I turned back to Ayase, but I couldn't believe my eyes. Kirino just stared at Kanako. * Jiiiiiiiiiiiiiiiiiiiiiiiii*

"Are you joking?"

"Hehehe."

Kanako laughed and pat my back.

"Yo ~ Kyou ~ suke ~ What's with your reaction ~ Did your heart race when you heard Kanako say we are going out ~?

You damn annoying brat!!!!!!

How could you joke about that? Look at yourself, your loli body is ~ totally not my taste!

…Say, why didn't Ayase have a reaction just now?

Or is all of this my imagination, and the truth is that Ayase already sent me flying?

From her berserker state earlier, I should have become a target for her kick right after Kanako said 'loving wife's bento'.

How could I still be alive? I looked back at Ayase — both of her hands were firmly holding down her right thigh. She looked like she was holding back a lot.

"…Ay… Ayase? What is wrong?"

"…Nothing… Onii-san's relationship with any girl aside from Kirino… is none of my concern."

With an incredibly calm tone, Ayase answer with that.

So she didn't have a reason to explode.

So, Kanako explained how she came to my place (the fake manager incident), so that she could use me as her test subject, as well as how she now knew that I was Kirino's elder brother.

"Ha ~ A celebration party ~ Let Kanako join in too ~~"

"Kanako, how could you be so blunt?" Ayase asked.

"Nah! ~ What are you worried about ~~ Kyou ~ suke ~~"

Wait… Kanako still didn't know that Kirino is an otaku, it would be trouble if she met Kirino's otaku friends… But somehow Saori didn't worry about it at all.

Kirino and I exchanged a glance.

"Well ~ it's fine then. Someone just said that he couldn't come."

You bastard Akagi, thanks to you I'm the only male here! Ah, so embarrassing! So uncomfortable! But I have to do this for my little sister…

"Really~? Thank you Kyousuke ~"

Kanako latched onto me innocently.

What the heck… this girl always preferred close contact.

What was she thinking?

"Hey, don't latch onto me."

"Heehee ~ what is wrong ~ are you embarrassed?"

Thud

"Ouch that hurt! What happened?"

Her leg was hit by something, Kanako squatted down.

"What happened Kanako? Looked like the wind blew a rock at you."

Since when can the wind blow a rock? While Ayase was checking on Kanako, Kirino quietly talked to me:

"…What have you done to Kanako? This question has no other meaning."

"…What exactly do you mean?"

"…Ha, forget it."

Hey, why are you sighing?

"Kyousuke ~ the food is ready ~ can you help us bring it down?"

Saori called for me.

"Sure! I'm on my way."

I should have told them about Kanako too.

So, our preparations were completed.

On the table, there were many types of food: Kanako's bento, soup, fruit, drinks, etc.

Kirino, Manami, Kuroneko, Saori, Ayase, Kanako and me, a total of seven, surrounded the table.

This was the first time mine and Kirino's friends from both sides met… No one here could predict something like this could happen.

How would it turn out? Half happy and half worried, I waited for the opening speech.

" ~~ Our party starts now! Kyousuke, congratulation for your new house!"

Cheer ~~ everyone raised their glasses.

The one who led the party was Saori-ojou-sama. Today she didn't wear her glasses, so she was very eye-catching.

" ~~ Ahahaha, Saori Bajeena is my nick name, my real name is Makishima Saori. Just Saori is fine."

"Then… Saori-san, please call me Ayase."

"Haha, Kiririn-shi's friend is my friend too."

I was worried that after her fight with Kuroneko, Ayase would feel uncomfortable with the otaku group. Thanks to Saori, the situation was proceeding smoothly. We told Saori beforehand about who was participating, how much that person knew about Kirino's otaku side, what their personality was like, and what could go wrong… Even the uninvited guest, Kanako, was being handled well.

"Ah… forgive my rudeness, but are you a model?"

"I'm not… why do you ask?"

"Because you are so beautiful, I thought that you are one of Kirino's friends from modelling."

"No, no, I knew Kiririn-shi from an Akihabara offline meeting. I'm the administrator of the 'Otaku Girls United' SNS group."

Saori smiled a " otaku like smile towards Ayase.

"I see… Ahaha…"

Although recently, Ayase's tolerance toward otaku had greatly increased, she clearly had trouble now.

Still... Saori… Her Bajeena speaking style and ojou-sama speaking style mixed together confused us a lot.

She used 'Watashi', 'Watakushi', 'Sessha' [11] completely at random, making it impossible to guess what exactly was going on in her mind.

From another point of view, this is the first time 'Otaku Girls United', 'Kirino's classmates and modelling friends' and 'my friends' (even though it's only Manami) have gathered together.

I was quite interested to see what kind of topics they would discuss.

"…Um, it's good."

I really liked barbecue. It had been my favorite for a long time.

I looked to the side and unexpectedly discovered an interesting topic!

"Say, sensei ~ why are you here?"

"Ka… Kanako-chan. I have been here since the beginning."

That was Kanako and Manami.

"What? You two know each other?"

A middle school girl and a plain high school girl.

I thought this would be the most unrelated pair, so I asked.

"Ah ~ This is Kanako's cooking teacher ~"

What a surprising answer.

"…Really?"

I looked at Manami. She nodded.

"Didn't Kanako tell you ~ A glasses granny taught me ~"

"Yeah… no wonder that food tasted the same as Manami's food."

"Ky... Kyou-chan! You should say something about 'a glasses granny'!"

"Ah, sorry… you are still a high school girl."

"Really? Sensei is a high school girl ~?"

"Kanako-chan, you are so rude! You two are teasing me ~ I'm getting angry!"

That was something only a granny would say…

"Okay, I think I got it… But how could you two meet? Did Manami open a cooking class or something?"

"Ayase told Kanako~"

"I see. "

I fully understood.

But Manami… first it was Ayase, and now Kanako was under her influence too.

My childhood friend is so scary!

Ayase and Saori, Manami and Kanako, they were all chatting together. I glanced aside and saw that Kirino and Kuroneko were giving food to each other in harmony.

"I didn't notice it before, but you are so good at cooking."

"Flattery won't get you anywhere."

"Hm hm… it's true. It's really good — but, well, how should I say it?"

"What are you trying to say?"

"Your cooking style. You always wear a gothic loli outfit, but your results are a gentle cuisine."

"Well…"

"In other words, you are still an old-fashioned style girl."

Kirino put another piece of meat into her mouth and praised it endlessly:

"So good! What is this!?"

"That… Tamura-senpai made that, so please don't rate my skill based on that…"

"What exactly did you make here anyway?"

"…The rabbit over here."

"So cute!"

Kuroneko looked like a normal high school girl now, unlike the evil dark witch that she used to cosplay.

She tried to make up an impression by saying 'Hm… This arrogant rabbit had to face its punishment…' But seeing that Kirino totally didn't listen, she had no choice but to give up.

"I learnt from Tamura-senpai... My little sisters are very happy when I cook for them."

"…Hehee ~ call me when you do that, will you?"

"No way."

Kuroneko blushed and shook her head.

That girl sure had a lot of personality.

Still, I had already known what Kuroneko's cooking tasted like, and how she was a gentle big sister…

The atmosphere was starting to warm up without a problem… It was quite good…

It felt like everyone gathered up especially for me.

I'm such a happy guy. My nervousness due to my exam had completely disappeared, as well as my fatigue.

Manami and Kirino's relationship was slowly improving.

Saori was still as dependable as ever. Kanako was unexpected, but thankfully she fit in pretty well.

Although Kuroneko and Ayase didn't even look at each other once……

Well… this alone could be called a success.

After about 50 minutes, the party reached its climax.

Kanako suddenly spoke, her words were like a stone suddenly thrown into calm water.

"Say ~ Kyousuke."

"Yes, Kanako-sama~?"

Since when were you so close to me?

"Say ~ just now, Kanako heard that you also received food from some girls aside from Kanako ~ What is the meaning of this ~~?"

"Why do you sound like you are my owner?"

'What is the meaning of this ~~' should have been my line.

Then I realized that everyone had started listening to Kanako and me.

"Kanako didn't mean that ~ But Kanako gave you her hand made bento! If you received food from other girls, that's very rude to Kanako, right?"

"I don't think it's rude…"

I had no idea why you brought that up.

"Anyway, you only gave me one small bento box enough for two servings. Since I can't cook by myself, if I didn't act rude to you I could starve to death! Beside, half of that bento was made by Manami, wasn't it?"

Ha… Ha… How was it, girl?

However, Kanako twisted her mouth…

"So if Kanako made you bento everyday, you could survive with only Kanako's bento, right?"

"Hey, are you even listening to me?"

"Noisy ~ who cares? So? Can you?"

Ugh… what should I reply?

While I was hesitating, someone interrupted us.

"Please wait a moment."

Kuroneko thrust her finger at Kanako's face.

"You can't just butt in like that. You third-class unreasonable girl."

Third-class unreasonable girl…

The first is Kirino. The second is… Ayase?

Hearing that, Kanako turned to Kuroneko with a a fierce gaze, as if it could cut people into pieces like a dagger.

"Ah ~? Who might you be?"

"Hm… I still haven't introduced myself."

Bang bang clank clank ~

Kuroneko drew a symbol in the air, stood on one leg, and while making a elaborate pose said:

"My name is Kuroneko… I lived in the 'Mad Town' of the 'Darkness World' — people called me 'The Fallen Angel'."

"Is this girl's head broken?"

There is no need to say that directly to her!

"What!? Shut up, you fake Meruru."

"Ah… who is a fake Meruru!?"

Nice insult, Kuroneko…

Kanako grit her teeth when she heard Kuroneko say that.

"I am Kanako! Kurusu Kanako! Don't be mistaken!"

"Okay, Kurusu Kanako, let me tell you something —"

Kuroneko pressed her hand on her flat chest:

"If someone should cook for senpai, it should be me."

"Wh ~ at !!!?"

Angered, Kanako finally showed her true self in front of Kuroneko.

At the same time, someone else interrupted.

"Please wait… you two."

It was Manami.

"Please calm down first."

"What's wrong Tamura-senpai?"

"What ~ sensei ~~?"

Both Kuroneko and Kanako turned to Manami.

"Um… please listen to me first…"

She smiled gently and said:

"Isn't your house far away now, Kuroneko? Giving Kyou-chan bento everyday would be hard for you."

"…Kuh."

"Hehee ~ heard that ~"

Kanako taunted Kuroneko.

I didn't think that she wanted to make me bento everyday, she just wanted to piss Kuroneko off due to her anger earlier.

However…

"It's the same for you, Kanako-chan. You couldn't make a complete bento right now."

Raising of her finger in a granny pose, Manami started lecturing Kanako.

"What ~? Why?"

"Kanako-chan can only make one dish now, right? You can't make that for him everyday."

"…Kuh."

"Today your bento was actually made by me this morning too."

I knew it.

"But I will improve quickly!"

"But it's still only one dish, right?

"Tch ~~"

…Seemed like Kanako couldn't go against Manami. I knew that feeling, because I'm the same.

If Manami got angry, she wouldn't become very terrifying… instead she would make you listen to her without knowing why.

Seeing that Kanako had calmed down, Manami said:

"And so, just let me take care of Kyou-chan."

"Ha!?"

Both Kuroneko and Kanako burst out at the same time.

"What are you saying, sensei ~?"

"Ta… Ta… Tamura-senpai? You said 'take care of'… You mean aside from just cooking?"

"Um. Like cleaning and washing. Just when I have a lot of free time, I could afford to help Kyou-chan."

Then she turned to me.

"…Can I?"

"Well… it's not like you can't…but there is no need to trouble yourself so much…"

Even if we were childhood friends…

"Please don't mind me ~ I hope that we could study together too ~"

"Study together huh."

I felt that it would undoubtedly turn out that you would teach me.

"P... please wait. Why do you sound like everything has been decided?"

"Yes, yes! We still have something to say!"

Both Kuroneko and Kanako recovered.

Kanako was angry, but Kuroneko... I felt that she had some subtle anxiety.

Is there no one here that could keep their calm aside from Saori and Manami?

By the way —

There were many times that Ayase was about to interrupt, but she always managed to bite down her lip in hesitation.

While Kirino —

…What a terrifyingly cold glare…

True, the reason for this argument could make any M guy happy. But I'm not!

Manami calmly continued:

"But… both of you can't do this for a reason or two… Um… I'm still the best one for this."

"…But…"

"There must be another solution — let's discuss it!"

"Um, like what?"

"Like… like... we take turns cooking…"

"We can't do that. It wouldn't give us a clear winner ~"

"…Ara? So we are trying to find out a winner now?"

"Ah ~ what are you saying at this point awww?"

"...Please wait you two."

Hey you guys, you seemed so fascinated about my meals.

Since the atmosphere was getting more and more dangerous, I turned to the reliable leader:

"Saori, can you do something about them?"

"Kyousuke, whose meal do you want to eat?"

"If that's the reason for them to quarrel, I would rather go to the convenience store to buy bento everyday."

"No!" they all shouted.

Wow ~ all three of them said that at the same time.

"...Ha… then in that case…"

Saori glanced at Kirino and Ayase, her mouth turned into a " shape and finally turned back to me.

"~ heehee ~"

"…What?"

Don't look at me like that without your glasses on! You are beautiful enough to charm me! ...Say, since when could you overcome your problems when you didn't have your glasses on?

I looked away, but Saori latched onto my arm and made sure everyone saw it.

"In that case, just let me take care of Kyousuke."

They were all shocked.

All three of them turned and stared at us.

"Ara ~ It shouldn't be a problem, right? I have a lot of time, while the problems of meals and cleaning could be solved by the power of money ~"

"You, you — after you take off your glasses, you always like to abuse the power of money!"

Please turn back to Bajeena!

And release my arm quickly, everyone's gaze is so horrible!

"I want to act like how an ojou-sama would in this case ! This is a good practice for me ~"

Ahahahahaha (Ojou-sama laughter) — Saori even purposely made a pose of covering her mouth with her hand… Ah… The Saori without glasses had become more and more unpredictable.

"In short, this is not so bad, okay?"

"You made it even worse! You ugly monster! Get lost!"

You were too rude, Kanako-san. Such words might not be effective to some people, but it's very effective to Saori ! She didn't just let it pass like usual. Her temple trembled! Her smile disappeared!

"…Kuh kuh kuh… Kanako… you are the first one to piss me off so much…"

Saori! That's not how a lady should speak!

"No matter what, I will not yield! I will take care of Kyousuke at any cost!"

"Hey… Are you serious?"

What happened to playing peacemaker?

Really… Your personality changed completely after you removed your glasses…

I miss Saori Bajeena…

Although… her solution wasn't completely impossible …

"Kyou-chan haven't you made a decision yet, this is not over ~"

"What do you say Kyousuke ~ if you choose Kanako, I will go on date with you ~"

"I could say the same about me —"

Their voices were getting louder and louder — it was almost noisy.

"THAT IS ENOUGH!!!!"

Someone yelled.

We turned to the source — Kirino stood up and proudly stared at everyone. My little sister slammed the table and yelled:

"Stop bothering Kyousuke!!"

…Just now… what did you say?

Kirino…they are not bothering me…

"He has a mock exam next month… This is his very important challenge, which decides if he can come back home or not!! He moved out so that he could focus on studying — how can he study if you girls keep harassing him like this!?"

"…I'm not harassing him…"

"Hey, hey ~ I'm making bento for him so that he could focus on studying ~"

"Yes! We are all hoping for the best!"

"…But I can't allow Kyou-chan to live on convenience store bento. If it's me, I could take care of Kyou-chan without disturbing him."

"No means no."

"Why?"

"Because I hate it."

That's Kirino — so unreasonable.

"Maybe after our talk later — our relationship could improve. But that's another story for 'later'. 'Now', I will not accept your solution."

"I see."

Even when she was denied, Manami kept her smile.

"In that case… it can't be helped."

Able to turn other peoples' malicious intent to calm water, this girl would surely turn into someone who is good at dealing with their mother in law.

"But what can we do? Even if Kyou-chan says 'I will take care of myself', no one will approve of that."

Manami looked around, and saw that everyone nodded.

…And I was just about to say exactly that.

Manami smiled with Kirino:

"Could it be — Kirino-chan wants to take care of Kyou-chan?"

"What? Disgusting, why must I take care of this guy?

Don't worry, I wouldn't ask you to take care of me even it costs me my life!

"So, what do you plan to do, Kirino?" (Ojou-sama tone)

Hearing Saori's question, Kirino looked around —

"I'm counting on you Ayase."

"Er!"

I was afraid that everyone here thought the same.

"…What do you mean, Kirino?"

Ayase asked Kirino, sounding confused.

Kirino calmly replied:

"I know it is troublesome… but can you take care of him for a month?"

"W… W… Wh… Why me!?"

Did you have to act that way? It hurt, you know?

"Because Ayase, you hate him right?"

"Yes."

No hesitation!

"So, Ayase is the best choice."

"What kind of reason is that? I don't understand what are you saying!"

I couldn't stop myself from asking.

"You shut up!"

I was immediately refuted… Damn… this is clearly my problem.

"Both Kuroneko and Kanako have their own problems. Saori is the furthest away from here. Manami… I won't allow it, and I'm an exception. Ayase is a serious girl, she hates him, she's good at cooking… so not only could she cook, she could also monitor him."

"Hey! Kirino, what do you mean 'monitor' me?"

It was too harsh! And I didn't understand why I needed to be monitored for a month!

"Hm…"

Kirino sighed and a folder suddenly appeared in her hand.

"Ah! That is…!"

I yelled. Because I recognized the folder Kirino was holding.

That… that is…

"Isn't that the report that Dad forced me to write?"

"Yup."

Kirino nodded:

"Ah… seemed like he told you to write down your study progress too… What is meaning of this? You didn't try your best."

"Of course I did! I did study!"

What I wrote down there was the first time I ever studied so seriously in my entire life!

"Maybe it's like that for you, but it's not enough! You have to try harder!"

"……"

True, maybe I thought that it was enough. But for someone who always tried her damn best like Kirino, it might not be enough… This girl was always pushing herself the hardest.

"As a result, you are still too lax on yourself."

Silence — then Kirino threw the folder at me, and said with all seriousness:

"If you really want to come back, show me your motivation!"

Sure, sure… I had thought about it…

"Or could it be — you want to become my slave?"

"Kuh…!"

I was angry! Although she's cute… but this time I was very angry!

"I will definitely do it! I will absolutely show you!"

I will get an A and force you to accept one of my orders.

"Hm… what a bluff… You don't sound very convincing —"

Then Kirino returned to her gentle voice when she spoke to her friend:

"— As you see, Ayase… I knew that my request is unreasonable… but can I leave it to you? At least until the exam is over."

"But… but… I… Onii-san…"

Ayase didn't look like she wanted to accept this request.

Listen to me guys… There was a cute girl in front of me that was knitting her eyebrows and acting very unwillingly.

It hurt!!! My heart hurt so much!

"Ha… ha…"

Ayase blushed, she was hugging herself in embarrassment.

Seeing that, Kirino used her last resort. Just like when she used it with me, she clapped her hands together and said in a spoiled tone:

"There is no one else I can count on ~~ Please ~~ "

"Ah…ha…"

Ah, Ayase had fallen.

"…I got it. I will do it — I will do it!!"

"Thank you Ayase! You really are my best friend!"

Kirino hugged Ayase as thanks.

"Really… it couldn't be helped…"

My little sister could be a magician…...

Ayase looked embarrassed, when she turned to me, her expression became very complex. (I didn't want to think of it as an expression filled with hate.)

"I… I really, really hate it… it's so gross… But if that's Kirino's request…"

Ayase's voice suddenly get louder:

"Just leave onii-san to me."

Don't joke about it, okay?"

What was my little sister thinking? Of course, I understood what she said — because Ayase hated me, she was a serious girl, and she had some advantages over the others — she was trusted with monitoring me.

However, deep down I still didn't feel totally relieved. Because at first, she made a bet with me, if I couldn't get an A and was unable to come back home, I would become her slave for the rest of my life.

But what Kirino did just now, and her reason to ask Ayase to monitor me was all my fault. Even if she was unreasonable, she butted into too much of my personal life… but because of me, she bowed to Ayase. She scolded me for not trying hard enough.

I don't get it. Her words and her action were totally opposite to each other.

She clearly wanted me to win, otherwise, why bother doing so much for me?

But why? What is her reason?

— Stop bothering Kyousuke!

Why… did she sound so angry?

"Ah — damn! My little sister is so annoying…"

I was on my way home.

Today is the day after the party, Monday.

I arrived back at my apartment and opened the door.

"…I'm home."

"Ah, welcome back — onii-san."

Ayase greeted me in her apron, just like a newlywed wife.

…I wanted to burst out laughing.

"What? Do you have something to say?"

"No, no… But somehow you seem so excited about this."

"I'm not!"

You were wearing a teddy bear apron and you still denied it?

I enjoyed the view of Ayase in her newlywed-wife clothes and I suddenly noticed something.

"Ara? You… That thing on your head…"

"Heehee ~ so you noticed?"

Ayase brushed her hair and showed me 'that'.

In Ayase's hair was the same hair clip that Kirino always wore. Ayase smiled happily.

"I got it from Kirino. Because she would've had to thank me, so I asked her for this…"

"Yup ~ it suits you."

"Hehee ~ it's the same as Kirino's…"

Ayase took out her cell phone and showed me a picture.

That picture showed Ayase and Kirino together.

Same uniform, same hair clip, same hair style.

"Haha, you two look like siblings~"

"Really! Oh hehee… so embarrassing ~ I have to thank Kirino later."

…Kirino gave you this as thanks. How would she accept something from you?

"Well, it's not suitable for me to say it…... but it's not like it's something worth much, is it?"

That was Kirino's normal hair clip, which was probably only worth around ¥500 or so.

"Actually… this hair clip is not sold anywhere. I have looked everywhere, there are only similar hair clips, but there were none that looked exactly like this."

If Ayase couldn't find it, then it must have been out of production.

"So where did Kirino get that?"

"Kirino said she bought a huge batch of them when she was small because she knew that the hair clip she liked was about to stop being made. There aren't many left, so this one is special."

Ah… I see… It had stopped being produced.

"So this is a rare one."

"Yes. To me this hair clip is special."

I see… That's good.

Seeing how happy Ayase was; I felt better.

"About… Sorry, you must be very troubled because of Kirino's sudden request."

I muttered an authentic apology to Ayase, but unexpectedly she looked away in embarrassment.

"No… I'm very happy."

"Wha…"

"Because…"

Because… Because of what?

"Because I got a wonderful present! Not only that…"

Ayase covered her flushed cheeks with her hands.

"I could repay Kirino's kindness."

Ah…...

"I'm only doing this because Kirino asked me to, so please remember that, onii-san."

"I… see."

I see… so you weren't happy because of me, but because of Kirino's present.

You wanted to repay Kirino's kindness.

I understood that feeling. If… Saori or Manami were in trouble — and they asked for my help, I would assist them with everything I had.

Maybe that was the case for Ayase too.

"That's why —"

Ayase took out a kitchen knife.

"Please let me borrow your kitchen."

"Su… sure, go ahead."

Just like a newlywed couple, my heart was racing. Of course, the main reason was… because the thought of Ayase with a knife scared me shitless.

I will absolutely not anger her while she was holding a knife. I firmly repeated this to myself.

I followed Ayase into the kitchen and asked:

"How much did it cost for meal ingredients?"

I should be the one paying for them. But Ayase shook her head:

"There were some leftover ingredients from the party. Onee-sama and Kuroneko probably had thought about it beforehand, so we have enough for a meal left in the refrigerator."

"I see. That's good then."

Was this what called they called housewives' self-esteem?

"Inside the refrigerator, each ingredient from the party was clearly labeled and all of them were in good shape. They really care for you, **onii-san.**"

Her voice seemed to rise in the last part… Maybe it was my imagination.

"…No matter how much I thank them, it won't be enough to show my gratitude."

"……"

"Is something wrong?"

"It's nothing… nothing at all. Onii-san, shouldn't you go study now?"

"Yeah, I should."

"But before that, there is something I have to say."

Ayase's eyes suddenly flashed, her soft and gentle expression changed into one of cold contempt, as if she was saying "Don't joke with me."

"…I don't remember accepting to provide those sorts of services."

"Don't speak like you're one of those maid waitresses!"

Do you think that just because you wore an apron, I was going to ask for maid services?

"What I want to say is, shouldn't we make ground rules?"

"I see… Rules, huh?"

"Yes. Although we are only going to live together for a short amount of time, ground rules are still necessary, right?"

"Live… live together?"

Ayase suddenly overreacted.

She immediately pointed the knife at me.

"Wh... wh... what are you thinking! Shameless! I will call the police!"

"What, what?"

You're overreacting Ayase! Damn… your standards for calling the police were getting lower!

"Please don't point the knife at me!"

You don't look like you are going to 'call the police'! You look like you are going to 'commit murder'!

Ayase explained in anger, her knife still pointing at me :

"Because… living… together… you sounded like… we are… we are… that!"

"…What are you saying?"

Her voice was getting smaller and smaller and it made me unable to hear the last part.

"So… ah —"

Ayase looked down for a while, then suddenly looked back at me:

"…Living together just like lovers…"

"…What are you saying!?"

This girl's excessive self-consciousness caused a major misunderstanding.

It was a heavy blow to my oath that prevented me from sexually harassing her again.

Still… I knew for sure that I wasn't good with girls. Just holding hands together with my girlfriend was enough to make me happy.

But that's why I needed those rules, to prevent any other troubles that may occur.

SLAP. I slapped myself and restrengthened my resolve.

"Sorry, I didn't make it clear just now. You are taking care of me because of Kirino's request, but both of us still have our own lives, right?"

"Yes."

"Then isn't it better to have some rules? Like which days per week, from when to when… and the like?"

"You… you… since when did you… Hey! Why did you call me to come here this late. What exactly do you want?."

"I haven't said anything like that…"

"…After calling me this late, you forcefully keep me here by saying 'The last bus has already left, what are you going to do? Why don't you just stay here for the night?'."

"I have no intentions like that! Why do you think that I would act like a jerk and do something like that towards my little sister's friend?"

And at this distance, you could simply walk back to your home.

Say, why did you have to say something like that? Did she never stop imagining being sexual harassed by me!?

No… no… Kyousuke! Calm down…

Don't let yourself to be pulled into Ayase's rhythm…

Ha… Phew… Ha… Phew… I took a deep breath and said:

"Beside, aren't you busy? You have your work as a model, right? You have to work every day, in fact. I want to talk about this."

"Hm… I see…"

Just like a child, Ayase curled her lips and said:

"But, but… yesterday I cleared my whole schedule… so I will have a lot of free time for now…"

Even it was Kirino's request, wasn't that taking it too far?

"Because of that… so… I could come here everyday…"

"I… I see…"

"…Do you hate it? That I come here everyday?"

"Ah, no, no, of course not."

I quickly shook my head.

"I'm very grateful. Truly I am… I owe everyone a lot of favors…"

I obviously did not deserve it — but everyone was so kind to me... to be honest I felt really guilty.

Hearing that, Ayase showed me a rare gentle smile:

"Onii-san is the only one who thinks that."

"…Really?"

"Yes. Onee-san, Kanako, Saori-san, Kuroneko, Kirino… and even me… All of us have received something from onii-san, we are just repaying your kindness now."

———— I was startled.

"I… I thought that you hate me."

"Of course I hate you."

Kirino also said that.

Fine, fine… I felt a little unhappy.

"Even if I hate you, I'm also very thankful to you, onii-san."

"What exactly do you feel thankful for?"

I didn't remember.

Ayase dropped the knife onto the washing counter (I was ~~~~~~~~ so relieved) and turned to me.

"When I had almost broken up with Kirino… thanks to onii-san, we could make up again."

"……"

This is truly something unforgettable.

At that time, I took the blame of 'the perverted elder brother who fell in love with his little sister' and Ayase's misunderstanding so that I could successful solve the problem.

But since that time — Ayase started to look down on me, even if the result was she had made up with Kirino.

After that —

"Not only that, onii-san has helped me with many of my life problems."

"Ah… yes, that's true…"

Why did Ayase ask someone she considered a pervert, a sexual harasser, and someone she outright hates like me?

Discussing when we had to get Kirino a present; disguised as Kanako's manager I snuck Kanako into the cosplay contest. That time, because I suggested a super erotic cosplay to Ayase, she hit me with a flying kick.

When she cried because Kirino was fascinated by an eroge and paid no attention to her, she asked me to help her understand Kirino's hobby — to play an eroge that Kirino was playing. That time, I had become a target for her roundhouse kick.

The second time I acted as Kanako's fake manager, the time I came to her house, the time I was handcuffed… There were a lot of things that happened.

"Haha… thinking back, all of them ended in failure."

I couldn't count how many times she threatened to call the police… I was kicked, abused, and shouted at so many times… but strangely, my affection toward Ayase didn't drop. Even I was surprised. Could it be that I'm a masochist?

"That's right. Because of onii-san's mistake, I remembered something embarrassing."

Ayase placed her hand on her chest and recalled the embarrassing event that took place between us.

"It's all your fault that I have all kinds of painful memories…"

"Haha… you reap what you sow."

Ah, her eyes looked like she wanted to report me to the police for sexual harassment.

I'm not a masochist nor a sexual harasser, but I don't hate being together with Ayase.

True, I did regret some of the misunderstanding with Ayase that I couldn't reconcile now.

It's fine if she misunderstood me for a pervert…Well, it was not really fine, but I didn't mind.

"……"

"……"

An awkward silence.

"…Onii-san… next… can we get back to some more important topics?"

"Sure…what do you want to ask?"

Ayase's expression turned serious, I couldn't help but tense up… what exactly was she going to ask?

Could it be it was something hard to say? Ayase looked like she couldn't put it into words. Her face reddened and she looked down in embarrassment.

…Glup

"About… that..."

Ayase made up her mind, looked up, and pointed at a corner of the room.

"What is with that cabinet over here?"

"Pfffffffffffff!!!!!"

So that was it! You wanted to punish me for having those erotic figures in my home! Well, I knew this was

coming, since she already asked about it a few days before. Fine, fine. Come on. Flying kick, roundhouse kick ~ unleash whatever you wanted!

"Ayase… did you look inside?"

"Yes I did. Before onii-san came back."

"I see."

"Die, pervert!" — I had already braced myself (and my jaw) for her kick, but Ayase just asked:

"Those kind of things… where do they sell them?"

"Ha!?"

Because I was so surprised, I didn't recognize my own voice.

"Please, please wait a moment Ayase. Did you look inside or not?"

"Yes I did… There are some… shameless human statues inside…"

"…That…"

"Um."

"They are figures from the eroge 'The Beginning of Imouto-wife'."

"!???"

Kuh… In an instant, I clearly saw that Ayase's right leg moved. But before it turned into a kick, she forced it back down.

…Ha… Phew… Seemed like she had more tolerance for it now.

But I still needed to make sure of Ayase's condition, otherwise one wrong move could have been my last.

"That 'imouto' you were just talking about… was it referring to Kirino?"

"No, no! It was a present from Mikagami!"

"…It's good to have friends who share your hobby."

"……"

I wanted to deny it! I really wanted to deny it!... But I couldn't stop playing the role of 'the pervert elder brother who loves his little sister!' in front of Ayase — ohhhahhhhhhhh! What a pain!

In front of me, Ayase looked like she didn't know what to say, but in the end she said:

"…But… Kirino said… she likes… those figures..."

"Yes, she loves them a lot!"

There is no problem with it, right?

"Why?"

"Ha?"

"Why… would Kirino like those erotic human statues … and those games too?"

What you just asked was a very basic question.

Kirino loved little sisters, eroges, and had all those otaku hobbies because…

"That's because…"

"Because?"

"…Of a 'bond of love' with me."

Of course it was a lie, but that was all I could say in front of Ayase. Even if she sent me flying again, it couldn't be help… A few seconds later…

"…About that."

But unexpectedly, Ayase didn't get angry. She kept asking me questions:

"Are there any other reasons? Not just a 'bond of love' with onii-san, but something else?"

She sounded like she noticed that I had something I couldn't say.

However, all I could answer is:

'— I don't know. I really don't know myself. Just when I realized, I was already in love with it' [12]

…Those were Kirino's own words back then.

But the truth was, even I didn't know the reason why my little sister liked eroge based on little sisters.

So I answered:

"Maybe there is one, but I don't know. Even Kirino doesn't know herself."

"…I see."

"...Say, why do you ask?"

Could it be that you got a hint of the reason?

"No… It's nothing. Please forget about it."

Could it be that you want to give Kirino another present? I tried to ask, but Ayase forcefully ended the topic.

"…So… I'm going to go study now."

"…Please do your best, onii-san."

And so, since that day, Ayase came to my home every day.

Even if it was due to Kirino's request, for a beautiful girl to come and take care of me every day ~ It was like a paradise ~ Thanks to that, my studying was greatly improved...

"The results should not be like this!!!!"

Although my table was full of reference books and the like, there was one particular problem that I couldn't solve.

Kirino had taunted me so much, I felt so embarrassing because of my uselessness. But please forgive me today. Why? Because, in my room…...

Ayase is taking a shower.

Aside form the sound of water falling, there was nothing else.

…Allow me to explain what happened.

Today, after school, it suddenly rained. I came back home drenched. After I dealt with my clothes, which were now drying, the door bell rang. When I opened it, I was met with Ayase who was also completely drenched.

Allowing Ayase to go to the bathroom first was a matter of courtesy, right?

Anyway, after I helped prepare her clothes (although they were all mine), I walked back to my table and started studying. But I couldn't focus at all!

"……"

It was similar to the time when I visited a love hotel with Kirino. But Ayase is not my little sister!!!

"Damn it! Calm the hell down!!!"

I glared at the bathroom door restlessly…

…*Glup*

Ding dong

Wahhhhhhhhhh!!

"Wha... What the heck…!"

I was almost scared to death! Who would come at this time!

Ding Dong

I rushed to the door and outside was someone I didn't expect.

"Hi ~ How are you!"

"Hi... Hinata-chan!"

"Hi ~ Kousaka-kun ~ long time no see ~~"

It was Kuroneko's little sister, Hinata-chan. She waved her hand and greeted me.

I waved back, smiling.

"Yeah ~ it has been a long time ~ I missed you!"

"Me too, me too ~ Eheehee ~"

We had a perfect relationship. Hinata-chan was an elementary student, so I got along with her easily… Just like Kanako, her characteristics suited me well.

"What did you come here for?"

And how could you know that I lived here?

"Ah ~ um ~ 'Fallen Angel-sama' ~ 'Beast ~~"

"I see. I understand perfectly."

By the way, Hinata-chan, it's 'Fallen Saint not 'Fallen Angel'. She would get mad if you repeated that mistake.

"Oh!? Really!? Just from a single sentence?"

"Yup. In short, Kuroneko was worried about me, but for various reasons, she couldn't come herself. Also, she felt troubled. During that time, you asked Kirino what happened and decided to come all by yourself — that's about it, right?"

Am I right? I secretly glanced at her and saw that she was very surprised.

"Kousaka-kun is so amazing ~! How did you come to that conclusion?"

"Hm ~ that's the power of love."

"With me ~?"

"Probably with Kuroneko and Kirino…"

"Wow ~ don't you feel embarrassed?"

Of course I was! There is no need to repeat that.

"Recently, I felt that Ruri-nee-chan seemed down ~ but she didn't tell me why. Yesterday, I found out that Kousaka-kun is now living alone. But during that time Kirino-nee-chan didn't ask Ruri-nee-chan, but asked another girl instead, wasn't it? So I think that Ruri-nee-chan felt down because she didn't have Kirino-nee-chan's trust as much as she thought ~ But from an outsider's point of view, I think that Kirino-nee-chan's choice was correct. If Ruri-nee-chan came here, Kousaka-kun couldn't study at all ~"

"……"

You talk too much, brat.

"…So, you came to check on my situation?"

"Yes ~"

"Kirino allowed you to come here?"

"She has forbidden me from causing you any trouble ~
"

But you suddenly came, you brat.

"Anyway, come in."

It was still raining, you would get wet outside.

Just like Ayase, Hinata hugged herself and blushed:

"Could it be… that a man is inviting me to his room?"

"Hey!?"

I pulled the brat into my home.

"Ahhh…"

"…Please don't let anyone hear that…"

I was just commenting on it, but Hinata-chan seemed very excited:

"Yah ~ Oh ~ you are going to lay your hands on an elementary school girl ~! Just like those erotic things in Kirino-nee-chan's doujinshi."

"Hey! Stop joking with me!"

How did it turn into this!

Beside, what the heck did Kirino show an elementary school student?

"...Forget it, I'm safe… for now."

The door was closed, so there was no danger of someone overhearing.

…How could I think of something perverted? It was impossible. Right now, let me keep playing with this elementary school girl.

I took Hinata-chan to the living room and said:

"…Okay, Hinata-chan. Sit down. I will get some snacks and drinks —"

Suddenly, I realized…

There was still the sound of water in the bathroom.

Crap!!!!!! Ayase was still in the bathroom, what the heck did I just do?

But I had no time to regret it. Because right that instant , the bathroom door opened and an angel stepped out.

"Thank you for lending me your clothes, onii-… san?"

Ayase stared in shock at Hinata-chan

"Wow… this is totally ~ unexpected ~ Kousaka-kun…"

Hinata was also surprised.

By the way, the clothes that I lent Ayase were cotton. She truly was a model, everything looked nice on her… But… Ayase's underwear was also drenched because of the rain… so… it turned out…

What an idiot I am! I didn't think that far ahead!

But I remembered my situation and regained my breathing.

Finally seeing what was going on, Ayase was trembling and pointed at Hinata-chan:

"On... onii-san! How could you bring that small girl in here while I was bathing!!!"

"She is a visitor! A visitor!"

Don't look at me like I'm some kind of criminal!

"She is Hinata-chan, Kuroneko's little sister."

"So you have laid your hands on Kuroneko's little sister too…?"

You said that on purpose, didn't you!

"…I'm just joking, onii-san. No matter how much of a beast onii-san is, you couldn't possibly lay your hands on this small girl."

"……"

It's good that you understood, but please don't say something so unnecessary.

But after that was Hinata-chan's turn to lecture me:

"Kou… Kousaka-kun you cheater! You said that you were living alone, but actually you had invited a girl to live together with you!"

"Listen to me, this is all a misunderstanding!"

I tried to explain.

Say, why was I explaining this to an elementary school girl like her?

I wanted to cry…

And then, another misunderstanding was born.

"Look! This is the one Kirino asked to take care of me, Ayase!"

"Yes! Because of the rain, my clothes were all wet… So I had to borrow onii-san's bathroom…"

"Um ~ so you two really didn't do anything against your consciences?"

"Of course not!"

Both Ayase and I yelled at the same time.

Hearing that, Hinata finally looked carefully at us.

"I will report everything I have seen just now to Ruri-nee-chan and Kirino-nee-chan."

"Ah… fine…"

"No! Don't do that!"

Ayase yelled.

"…Ayase?"

I turned to Ayase in surprise, only to see her expression was quite anxious, with a hint of embarrassment.

"…Please wait… this... this could cause a misunderstanding with Kirino… so…"

"It's fine as long as we are clear, and as long as this girl doesn't exaggerate something."

I slowly poked Hinata-chan's forehead while speaking, making her say "Please stop that…"

"Give my regards to Kuroneko, tell her that I can focus on studying just fine, that there is no need to worry about me."

"Fine, fine ~ I got it already ~ it hurts ~ still, there is something else I have to report to my sister!"

…What did you just say?

I didn't understand the last part of what she said.

"…Phew… that's enough for today."

It was one o'clock in the morning and my English study session had just come to an end. Because I was so focused on studying, my neck had become very stiff. After a long period of concentration my temples ached and my head felt hotter. Unlike physical exercise, this mental exercise didn't help me feel refreshed ~ ah ~ what should I do now ~

"Ah ~ it won't do ~ I still didn't try hard enough ~"

I was totally unlike those guys with great grades. How did Kirino manage to study?

"I should take a break by sending her a message for fun ~"

So I sent a message to my little sister.

"Your aniki has studied really hard today ~"

After about a dozen seconds later… I got a reply.

"So noisy! Disgusting!"

……

"Really… Can't my little sister be a little gentler when talking with me?"

It was rare for me to send a friendly message.

Every time like that, I couldn't help but remember her ' freaking out' expression.

"Let's check out Ayase's fan blog to heal my damaged soul~"

I walked to the computer and opened the website that Akagi told me 'My Lovely Angel Ayase-tan's Fanblog . It was one of the pages that updates Ayase's new angelic pictures every few days.

I already had it bookmarked and checked it daily.

Naturally, I downloaded every picture.

"Let's see what's new for today ~"

If Kuroneko or Kirino heard me saying that, they would have slapped me immediately. I clicked on the button…

I can't wait for the new angel like picture anymore ~~

"…Huh?"

It was… different from the usual.

[What are you doing, Ayase-tan?

My imagination is destroyed! Ayase-tan, how could you do such a thing?

How could you betray your fan like that? It was a mistake, right?

…I wanted to post those pictures (you should know that the pictures are of you and someone else, right?) but I will give you another chance.

Because I like Ayase-tan the most.

Please stop those shameful actions and reflect on yourself!

From the one who loves you the most, Sayaka.]

Chapter 4

ore no imouto ga konnani kawaii wake ga nai

第四章

"What... is going on…?"

The 'My Lovely Angel Ayase-tan Fanblog' had posted a picture of Ayase coming out of a hotel while holding a man's hand ———— of course that was a lie, the picture showed Ayase shopping in a store.

"Isn't that… the otaku store Kirino usually goes to?"

That was the same store that once distributed 'Hoshino Clara-san's signature'. I remembered it clearly because Kirino had taken me there many times before.

But… But to think the otaku-hating Ayase would go to that store —

What is that in her hand? Isn't that a little sister figure!? Ayase… really bought that?

"Um…"

She had asked me about those figures before… normally she would never do that, but as long as I added the condition 'for Kirino', Ayase would do anything.

…The picture was probably taken when she bought a figure for Kirino.

Why did Ayase do that?

I scratched my cheek

"…Looks like the blog owner is very angry…"

It was just like how Ayase had reacted when she met Kirino at Summer Comiket. Still, Ayase was more tolerant than before.

—Ayase-tan, are you going to betray your fans?

"I should have known ~"

I could have guessed why the owner was angry.

I had almost forgotten. After spending so long with Kirino, Kuroneko and Saori, I had become an otaku. So I didn't think that there was anything wrong about otaku — but there were a lot of people who couldn't accept that . Just like what Kirino said about the public opinion.

"But society looks at otaku from a bad perspective — that much I'm aware. Do you know who hates otaku the most in Japan?"

That was the reason my little sister couldn't go public about her hobby.

What happened a year ago was repeating itself with Ayase.

I took a look at the counter and found out that on average, there were about ten people who visited the blog each day.

"It's a fortune amidst misfortune."

The less people that saw the post; the better it would be.

Now it is about 12:30 PM. The web counter was at three — in other words, including the blog owner and myself, there were three people who saw this post.

Still… that small of a fan blog shouldn't be a problem for now. Besides, the owner said that if Ayase reflected on it, they would forgive her.

They probably wouldn't stop being Ayase's fan… just because of that.

For me, if the blog stopped, I would have felt a bit lonely.

"Still....."

In this post — there was something that caught my attention.

— I wanted to post those pictures (you should know that it is the picture of you and someone else, right?) —

The picture of you and someone else……

What is the meaning of that?

"Don't tell me there is something even worse than buying a little sister figure…"

…Like… this… and that…? No, no, no it was impossible! Totally impossible! What was I thinking!?

Not only was it near impossible for a middle school girl, it was Ayase we were talking about. That was totally impossible. Even though I had made some connections

between 'photo together' and 'middle school girl', I couldn't imagine the pure Ayase like that.

Anyway, from the way that post was written, it looked like the owner wasn't male.

If she saw Ayase had gotten a boyfriend — a crazy fan could lose her calm and write something like this.

If I saw Ayase kissing someone in a photo, I would definitely roar, "Go to hell, you fucking bastard —!"

But I wouldn't post it online.

By the way, you guys can rest assured; Ayase doesn't have a boyfriend.

Because Ayase had been coming to my home everyday and taking care of me like a newlywed wife. She didn't have time to spend with her boyfriend—

"Wahhhhhhhhhhhhhh!!"

I'm such an idiot!

Didn't the owner of the fan blog mean me!?

How could I have missed it until now!?

"This… this blog owner…! Could it be that she saw Ayase come to my home everyday and misunderstood?"

Ayase came to a man's home everyday. Sometime she even went to the super market to buy cooking ingredients.

From an outsider's point of view, Ayase looked like a girl who just tasted her first love, so she took care of her boyfriend everyday.

Was the owner of this blog following her everyday and secretly saw everything?

And then—

—She saw Ayase… buy a figure from an otaku shop.

That was why those texts were written.

"What a big misunderstanding—!"

The owner didn't leave her email address! She also disabled the reply/comment section.

How could I explain it!

Still… even if I could contact her, I'm not sure what I should write.

—Hey, that 'photo together' that you spoke of; maybe you meant Ayase and me? Sorry, but this is a misunderstanding ~ oh, by the way, I enjoyed the pictures of Ayase that you took.

Can I write something like that? Of course not…

While I was thinking of what I should do…

Beep Beep Beep Beep Beep Beep.

"Wah!"

I jumped in shock due to my cell phone. I quickly flipped it open…

"Hey Kousaka! Did you read that post?"

"Akagi! So you are the other one that saw it!"

I didn't have time to lecture him! Thankfully the other one was someone I knew!

"What are you saying?"

"It's nothing… Pay it no attention. Anyway, I have already seen the blog."

"Did Ayase-tan buy an otaku figure? What is going on ?"

"I'm not sure myself."

But I bet it's related to Kirino somehow.

I should have kept asking back then… ah, now is not the time to regret.

And Akagi, it's disgusting to hear you said 'Ayase-tan'. Only call her that in your head, okay?

"What is the other photo they spoke of? Could it be an erotic photo of Ayase?"

"It's impossible! If you keep having weird imaginations about Ayase, I will kill you!"

Someone like you would probably openly ask his girlfriend for erotic activities.

"Are you kidding me?"

Did I sound like I was joking?

"Akagi… didn't I tell you? During the party, Kirino asked Ayase to monitor me!"

"Ah ~ Ah ~ So that's it."

"Yup, that's it!"

"I got it. Still… what can we do now? We can't let this continue."

"You are right. If that continues, not only will Ayase lose a fan, but this blog will cease updating."

"I don't mean it that way."

"?"

"I think that Ayase might be in danger."

"What? Danger?"

"Yes. The blog owner takes Ayase's picture everyday, right?"

"So?"

"Hey, didn't you notice? All of them were secretly taken."

"How could you be so sure?"

I thought the blog owner was one of Ayase's co-workers in modelling.

"Look carefully. Ayase never looks directly into the camera right? That's too strange if a friend was taking her picture. Besides, there is no picture of Ayase and the owner, right?"

"True….."

It seems like my assumption that the owner was Ayase's friend is wrong. Akagi is right…

"If the blog owner is the same one who took the picture, then there is a good chance that he had secretly followed Ayase to your home."

"That… That's a bit scary."

I didn't feel any danger because Ayase had done similar things to Kirino. But from an outsider's point of view, the situation was bad.

"There is no way to contact the owner, do you have any ideas?"

"Hmm… How about discussing it with Mikagami?"

"Mikagami?"

"Yes. He is a model himself, so he should know how to deal with this kind of thing, right? Even if he doesn't know, he could give you some advice."

"You are right… I'll call Mikagami."

Oh damn… why did this happen at such a crucial moment?

—It was past one o'clock when I finished my phone call with Akagi, but I still tried calling Mikagami.

Thankfully, the eroge-loving Mikagami was still awake… After I told him what happened he said:

"I don't think you should be too worried about it — but I will contact the agency just in case."

Although I expressed my worries about what would happen if the agency knew about Ayase's purchase; Mikagami assured me that I didn't have to worry about that.

"The current president is a reasonable man, so don't worry. Worst case, I could ask Misaki-san to say something."

Misaki-san was Mikagami's boss.

Looks like I was right to discuss it with him.

"Sorry for troubling you."

"It's not a problem. Just leave everything to me. Kyousuke-kun just needs to focus on studying."

"Sorry…."

"Don't worry about it. I myself had encountered some crazy stalkers before — From what you told me, this

stalker seems to be very angry because Aragaki-san has visited your home everyday… also because she bought a figure, right?"

Yes, and your point is?

"But that figure was not a R18 + only. So there is nothing bad about the fact that Aragaki-san bought it – how dare they say it is shameful and bad? They themselves are the bad ones here — They should reflect on it!"

Wow… this is the first time I have heard Mikagami sound angry.

"Hey, there is no need to be so angry."

It's normal for a middle school girl to think like that.

"Ah… sorry… because it's I had a bad experience because of a stalker myself…"

He sure is a high class citizen… his words are different from mine.

I could only say 'I see' then return to the topic:

"After you speak with the agency – what do you think they will do?"

"I think they will inform the police. That was how I dealt with it."

"Inform the police?"

Isn't that too exaggerated? The stalker is probably just a middle school student.

"We have to prepare for the worst. It would be too late to do anything if something happens."

"I… I see."

But… I felt pity toward that blog owner. Besides, I kind of liked the blog… Of course, I knew that what Mikagami said wasn't wrong, so I didn't plan to stop him .

"Aragaki-san would only feel discomfort if she knew, so I don't think we should tell her about this yet."

"…I understand."

"Even if the agency pulls some strings with the police to act, it's absolutely impossible to catch the stalker immediately –"

"Is it really impossible…?"

"It is. Even if we have some conclusive evidence, it would take no less than three months. I speak from my experience. The stalker's blog's server is placed in America, and they won't have any intention of helping Japanese police for a case like this. Even if we send a formal request by email, it would be unlikely to get any response."

……

"It seems like you had it tough."

"Actually, it doesn't matter which job you have. In every job, as long as you have a reputation, you will inevitable attract a stalker or two. If they know your address, then they might try to burn it down or send you a cat's corpse everyday. Even if you keep your address hidden from the public, they will figure it out sooner or later. Even if the police catch them, they won't care. The next day, they would appear in front of your house like

usual. Well, that's actually pretty normal; you could say that this is a price to becoming famous. Anyway – we need at least three months to catch this stalker, but they surely won't stop during this time, so we have to make suitable preparations."

If the stalker is like he said, it will be horrible. No wonder he insisted we call the police.

…Although I felt that the blog owner was not as dangerous as Mikagami said, after hearing his experience , I understood why he wanted to go this far.

"Is there anything I can do?"

"Nothing. You only have to try your best for your little sister's sake and just let Aragaki-san take care of you like usual."

"But the stalker said that unless Ayase reflected on it, they will publicize the picture of Ayase coming to my home. Isn't that dangerous?"

"Even if you do as they said, there is no way to guarantee that they won't publicize it. Beside, do you feel confident that you could ask Aragaki-san to stop coming to your house while hiding the truth from her?"

"That's impossible."

I would surely confess the truth.

"So we ignore the damage that has been done and focus on preparing to deal with additional damage. Like how will you comfort her if that picture is made public, or how to protect her safety."

"Okay. If that picture causes a misunderstanding I will try my best to resolve it."

"Please do so. When she goes outside, I will try to follow her as much as possible. Of course, I will cross-dress too —"

"Why do you have to cross-dress…?"

"Because if I followed her while dressed like a man, it might cause additional misunderstandings from the stalker. But I can't allow a girl to do something so dangerous. So the handsome me has no choice but to cross-dress—"

"I commend you from the bottom of my heart, you are really good person!"

I can't do something like that. Kirino once told me in a very natural tone "Why don't you just cross-dress?"[13]. I can't believe that there is guy that would really do it.

I once considered Mikagami as 'Kirino male version', but allow me to take that back.

My little sister can't be this perverted.

The next day after school, when I got back home I saw 'a very cute girl' near the stairs to my room. She was standing in a position that, with a little effort, would allow me to see her underwear. She was wearing the same uniform as Ayase — with light brown hair and a familiar hair clip.

What surprised me was I didn't feel anything towards this girl. Was it because her clothes looked the same my little sister's—? No, it couldn't be that simple. How should I put it, even though she is cute, she seemed strange somehow. Still, this girl is eye-catching. Because not only did she block the way, her eyes were empty. Just

like Ayase's dull eyes – or in eroge terms 'a raped victim's eyes'. Could it be that she was dumped by her boyfriend?

"…Hi… Do you need something?"

I could just go my way, but I still said that. The cute girl kept her shameless posture and looked at me with her dull eyes and said:

"Ah… you've arrived."

"Wh… What? Did… we meet before?"

The cute girl pointed at her face and feebly said:

"I'm Mikagami."

I immediately kicked him.

"That hurt! What are you doing?"

"Your underwear is exposed! If you don't be careful I will kill you!"

"Er… this reason is too forced…"

"A pervert has no human rights!"

A male high school student secretly glanced at the cute girl, and then suddenly kicked her.

That was me just now… Hopefully no one saw that….

This guy… really cross dressed and followed Ayase? It's so unbelievable.

"I even changed into a girl's uniform, but I'm your friend. How could you not recognize me…?"

Because I didn't expect you to change into girl's underwear too!

"If you are here —"

Mikagami pointed at the second floor.

"Yes, she has arrived."

"So, Mikagami, why did you look so depressed?"

"When I arrived to meet Aragaki-san like this, she immediately recognized me —"

"Aragaki-san? Let's go home together."

"I will call the police!!!"

Pfffffffffff ——

"— I was almost arrested."

You volunteered to do that, so bear with it. But I understand your feelings, because half a year ago, I was treated the same way.

"Why does she carry a personal alarm…? To tell the truth, I think that she would be fine even if she was assaulted."

I can see that you were thoroughly beaten.

Having received a heavy blow, Mikagami scratched his wig and sighed:

"Ha… after I escaped from her school guard I tried to follow Aragaki-san in secret — it was so tiring. She constantly sent me messages saying 'pervert', 'please don't talk with me again' and 'I will tell the agency'. I felt so powerless. This girl is so hard to deal with."

Isn't it the same as the usual for me?

"Haha… looks like I'm not a masochist."

With lifeless eyes, Mikagami whispered:

"No matter if it's Kirino-san or Aragaki-san — only Kyousuke-kun can handle them."

"Hey, are you saying that I'm a masochist?"

"Oh right, if you say it like that, then Kyousuke-kun is a masochist."

"I'm not!!!"

Don't label me carelessly!

"Anyway, next I will have to follow her home. I think that the agency will send someone soon enough, so just leave everything to me."

"…I see. Then I leave it to you."

We both smiled wryly, and then I walked past Mikagami —

Without turning back, I waved at him.

Afterwards, Ayase still came to my home everyday, and I spent as much time as possible studying.

I thought the blog owner, Sayaka, would be very angry. But unexpectedly, even though ‘Ayase didn't reflect on her actions', the blog still hadn't posted any pictures of us together.

Oh right, the blog had stopped updating.

Maybe she stopped being Ayase's fan? Although it's a pity, nothing happening could be considered a good ending.

As the mock exam drew closer, I gradually forgot about the blog.

Until a day in November, two days before the exam. After school.

I got back home, but Ayase didn't come out and greet me.

"?"

"I'm back…" I announced as I removed my shoes and entered the room…

Past the entrance, there was an unbelievable scene in front of me.

I will only say this once, so listen carefully, okay?

Still in her uniform, Ayase was stepping on Kuroneko's stomach, who was in her gothic loli outfit.

"Ah… ahhahah… hahhaha… how was it? Kuroneko-san… (ahaha)."

"Kuh…how could it be… Do you… want to… control my soul? (ahaha)."

What are you two idiots… doing?

…An SM play?

"Er… Hey —"

"_____"

Kuroneko and Ayase winced and slowly looked in my direction.

They broke into a cold sweat, their faces twitched.

"On… onii-san? This… this is!"

"— It's not like what you think!"

Both of them panicked

"Uh… Ah… Then…!"

Actually, I was panicked too. What… should I do?

"Er… Hey… since when have you two gotten along?"

"That… that's… because…"

While moving her stocking clad foot on Kuroneko's stomach, Ayase tried to come up with an explanation.

On her part, Kuroneko caught Ayase's foot, still breathing erotically while kicking her black stocking covered legs.

"Please… wait… let me explain."

"……"

Do you think that I will accept what I saw just by listening to your explanation?

Kuroneko recovered from the position (under Ayase's leg) and sat in front of me.

Her face was still red, she coughed a few time and said :

"Well… this… How should I begin…?"

Kuroneko explained —

Last month, one day Hinata ran breathlessly to Kirino and Kuroneko to report:

"Ruri-nee-san! Kirino-nee-san! Kousaka-nii-san brought a girl in his room! There was a very beautiful black haired girl bathing in his home!"

That damn brat —! She did exaggerate things!

Of course Kirino and Kuroneko already knew about the fact that Ayase came to my home everyday, and they noticed Hinata's excited expression, so they didn't give up to her provocation.

"…Hinata, give us a correct report. Otherwise, when the sun rises, all of your clothes will become mine."

"I can't go to school in that case!"

Being threatened, Hinata had no choice other than telling them everything. Then the three of them held a meeting — in the end, they decided…

"Without affecting my studying as much as possible, come and take a look."

Why? Did they doubt me or something?

But Kirino said…

"I won't go. You go instead. Encourage him for me. I think he would be very pleased."

She said that.

As usual, I had no idea if she was helping me or not.

All she had to do was come here and tell me 'Do your best, aniki', I would have thought that she was a lovely little sister and doubled my determination.

— And so, Kuroneko came here to encourage me.

But she came after Ayase had already arrived —

"— Welcome back, onii-san — ack!"

They met each other.

I could imagine the rest myself.

"So what happened next? What could evolve into that perverted lesbian game?"

"Don't say something so shameless! That… That is… a 'ceremony'. A dark and evil ceremony to reincarnate her into an evil body with a holy attribute..."

Pray tell, is it holy or evil?

Kuroneko's opening words were normal, but the content was so amazing that I didn't understand a single bit.

"So is that a ceremony to reconcile?"

"Something like that."

Looked like I was 80% right.

But what did a ceremony to reconcile have to do with stepping on each other's stomach?

"Because we fought last time."

Ayase answered. She was now sitting next to Kuroneko. I didn't see any tense atmosphere before when they bickered.

Used a lesbian play to reconcile — It looked like their relationship had become better.

That'd be nice in this case.

"…Please don't misunderstand, onii-san."

Ayase hastily waved her hand.

"Because… between Kuroneko-san and I, we rarely got a chance to talk together, so we took this opportunity to express our true feelings."

"True feelings?"

"Yes. About Kirino… and… onii-san."

She seemed like she purposely avoided telling me exactly what they talked about.

"After we spoke our true feelings… Kuroneko-san suddenly asked me to step on her —"

"For real?"

Kuroneko nodded, said:

"During my talk with her, I noticed one thing. That's inside Aragaki Ayase is 'a dark angel' – an overwhelming darkness."

"I think so too."

"On... Onii-san! Do you want me to kill you?"

This is what you were talking about, right Kuroneko?

"To welcome my brethren, I have to make the dark angel's killing impulse rise and surface."

I used my own Kuroneko-translation ability and interpret that as 'I'm actually a huge masochist.'

So maybe by allowing Ayase to continue to abuse the masochist Kuroneko, they would become good friends later.

"— I got it."

"Aha… seems like you finally understood."

Kuroneko showed a satisfied smile.

"I think that onii-san is having a terrible misunderstanding…"

While Ayase still didn't accept my response.

"So have you two finished talking?"

"Hm, how should I put it…? We have gotten better."

"Yes."

They looked at each other and replied.

Yeah, it does look like you two have gotten better.

"… At the very least, we won't fight like last time because we have exchanged our principles and ideas with each other."

"…Don't… don't use such weird words…"

Ruri-senpai, your face and tone show how very excited you are!

"Although we haven't accepted each other's principles … We are still on opposite sides…"

"Of course. And there is no sight of compromise."

"Yes, that's right."

Kuroneko and Ayase – two sides of Kirino's friends.

When they first met, I didn't imagine that they would become like this. But I was happy because their relationship had gotten better.

"Aragaki Ayase — let me take back what I said. I will never tell you 'this is none of your business' again. I now know that – you are a formidable enemy to my destiny, but you are also my ally with the same goal."

"Really… I can't understand what you are thinking."

Even though Ayase said that, she was smiling happily.

My life continued as usual. I focused all of my time into studying because I didn't want my little sister to keep telling me that.

I will show her that I can do it. I will repay everyone's kindness.

That is my oath. They are the reason for me to keep moving forward.

It has been a long time since I last felt this way… A long time since Kousaka Kyousuke tried his best.

And so…

The examination day had finally arrived.

"Admission — check. Examination tool — check. Wallet — check. Meal and clothes — done."

Stood in front of the mirror, I looked at myself and checked my appearance

"Okay, all ready!"

I took a look at my watch and saw that I still had a lot of time before the exam.

So I checked my cell phone and noticed that I received a message from my little sister.

It said —

"Do your best!"

"Ha…"

Is she telepathic? This is exactly what I wanted to see now…

"Of course I am going to do my best ~"

When I was about to close my cell phone, I noticed there was another message.

— From Mikagami.

"Ah, this is from yesterday."

Wow, I was so focus on reading last night that I didn't notice it. Hopefully it's nothing serious.

The message's subject was 'Please don't worry.'

— Because the situation had worsened, the agency had decided to tell Aragaki-san. But there is no problem, so don't worry — do your best on the exam! —

"— Huh?"

The situation had worsened… You mean the stalker?

"And you tell me to not worry…"

I couldn't do that. I immediately turned on my PC and went to the fan blog site.

"!"

[This is the last message to you, betrayer!]

I immediately saw a dangerous line.

I checked the time, and found out that it was posted yesterday.

I have given you a chance.

But you didn't listen to my advice.

Next… I will punish you, betrayer.

"Hey, hey — wait!"

What kind of words are those? So horrible! Scary!

"Hey hey hey hey — why must that happen right now!?"

Are you kidding me…? It's not a joking matter anymore…

"Ayase… I hope she is okay…"

I hoped that after hearing that, she wouldn't be too scared…

When I had entered Ayase's phone number and was about to call her — my hand stopped.

Wait a second… If I called her now… wouldn't she feel guilty because of that… If I called, it would turn into a burden for her instead…

And what exactly should I say? Like — 'Just leave everything to the agency?' Then Ayase would reply 'I'm so ashamed of myself to make onii-san worry at this critical time.' My original intention would only become a burden…

"Ha…."

I closed my cell phone and returned it to my pocket.

Today is my important day. First, I will have to finish today's exam — after I get a good result, I will thank Ayase for taking care of me. And Kirino too.

Yes. Right now my job is to face this exam in my best condition.

"Good, let's go."

I stood up from my seat and walked to the entrance.

The weather is nice. No clouds. My vision from the second floor was good. Aside from the bus station, there was nothing worth looking at. The leaves had started to fall. Every time I took a breath of cold air, I felt my nose hurt a little.

"So cold…"

I wrapped the scarf that Manami gave me last year around my neck.

I started walking toward the stairs. Then I heard a familiar voice:

"— Onii-san!"

In front of me was Ayase in her casual clothes.

"Good morning!"

She was out of breath, but she showed me a dazzling smile:

"What are you —"

Why are you here? Ayase came here — that meant she still didn't know she was being stalked...? That's… not good…

"Ha… Thank god… I made it in time… Ha…"

— Next... I will punish you, betrayer.

I looked around, carefully searching everywhere. Nothing unusual yet. Good… While I carefully made sure to not show any strange expressions on my face, I said:

"Did you rush here?"

"Yes. I have been together with onii-san until now — please allow me to cheer for you too."

"Thank you, I'm very happy. I will do my best."

"I'd be troubled if you didn't. Oh right — this…"

Ayase took out a charm for examination.

"I got this from Yushima Temple."

"…Is that for me?"

"Yes. There is one from onee-chan too."

"Thank you. I feel more confident now."

"…Please don't misunderstand. This one… Everyone got this together… so… there is no other meaning."

"Um um…"

Why do you have to explain? Aren't you afraid of another misunderstanding?

"By the way, who is 'everyone' you speak of?"

"…Kirino, me, Kanako, Kuroneko-san and Saori-san."

Ayase said that with a complex expression. You meant … you guys could go together now?

"Everyone — came together and prayed for you too. And we got a personal charm for Kanako."

"……"

I'm very grateful for everyone's feelings.

Even if there is no god, this charm would bring me good luck.

"…Speaking of which, the mock exam today is nothing but a small step."

I said and clenched the charm in my hand.

"If I fail here, you guys will probably scold me to death ."

"That's right. So prepare yourself, onii-san. Everyone will scold you until you pass out."

Ayase laughed.

"I'm not scared."

I returned a fearless smile.

The exam today… has become more important.

From the look of it – Ayase still doesn't know about the stalker.

Should I tell her that now?

I think it's fine. Keeping her in the dark now would be more dangerous.

Luckily, I still had enough time.

So I seriously asked her:

"Ayase. This is a bit sudden, but there is something important I have to tell you."

"Er… I… Important?"

Ayase panicked, her eyes widened.

"But… But… suddenly saying that… I… I haven't mentally prepared…"

For some unknown reason, she blushed and looked down.

"……"

Still, I waited a minute for her to mentally prepare herself.

Finally, Ayase looked up again.

"P… Please say it."

Her expression was somewhat stiff… Ah, when I thought about the scary thing I had to tell her, my mood became heavy. I took a deep breath and said:

"Ayase… please listen to me carefully."

"— Yes."

"You are being stalked."

"Er?"

Huh? Ayase was more surprised than I thought.

"Er? Ehh? Ah… could it be that this is the pervert's confession, 'I have been stalking you'?"

"Of course not!"

How did you come to that conclusion!

So you interpreted everything I said based on the assumption that I'm a pervert!?

"I didn't mean me! There is a crazy female stalker following you. She even created your non-official fan blog. Since you started coming to my home, she has made a terrible misunderstanding."

After my careful explanation, she finally understood.

"…Is it true that there was a stalker that followed me aside from onii-san?"

"That's right!"

Do you want me to follow you that much?

"Also — you bought a figure last month, didn't you? In the shop near the bus station."

"How… could you know that, onii-san!"

"…The stalker posted a photo of you when you bought it."

I used my cell phone to show Ayase the website.

"…!"

Ayase immediately paled.

"Since that time, this girl seemed to be angry."

I told Ayase everything that had happened since that day.

"— Yesterday, I saw that she posted this…"

"The exam is drawing near… and I still caused Onii-san to worry about me…"

Ayase dropped her shoulders.

Ah… I didn't want to tell her precisely because I didn't want to see her like this.

"…Don't worry. It's not your fault."

When I was about to put my hand on her head…

Flash flash There was a flash and the sound of the shutter.

"What —"

I turned back and saw someone standing up behind my neighbor's washing machine —

Was the stalker hiding there the whole time?

That stalker seemed to be a girl. She wore a black coat with sunglasses and a cap. At first look, I knew that she had tried to disguise herself, so I couldn't figure out her age. There was also a camera around her neck.

"Ya…"

Frightened, Ayase took a step back. To protect her, I stepped in front of her and stared fiercely at the stalker.

"…What are you doing?"

"…Get away!"

"What?"

"Get away from Ayase!!"

What do you mean...? Suddenly shouting like that…

Although it was embarrassing to admit but my legs felt really weak. This stalker… is so big and tall… She had exuded an atmosphere that completely denies any chance of communication.

Coincidentally, it was similar to when Ayase got angry .

"Are you… Ayase's crazy stalker…?"

"You are the crazy stalker!"

She shot back. I felt that Ayase was trembling behind me… Damn… I need to calm down.

I swallowed hard, and then said:

"You said I'm a stalker? Why do you say so?"

"Don't play dumb! I have my evidence —!"

You meant just now? That was too much of an exaggeration.

"I was only… about to place my hand on Ayase's head. What kind of evidence is that?"

"You are Ayase's stalker; you planned to force her to follow your orders!"

Damn! This girl was totally incommunicable. Although I had some experience from dealing with Kirino and Ayase, but she is much worse than them. I felt like she didn't even understand human language…

I unconscious took a step back.

"…Onii-san, please step aside…!"

In a sudden display of courage, Ayase walked in front of me.

"She is the stalker…"

"Yeah, no doubt about it."

Hearing my confirmation, Ayase stared fiercely back:

"You… Who are you?"

"I'm your fan, Ayase! I have been your fan for a long time!"

"Long time...? Have I met you before?"

"We met everyday! I know everything about Ayase!"

"_____"

Hearing this enthusiastic admiration, Ayase once again hugged herself in terror.

Well, hearing a strange girl saying that isn't something comfortable because it sounded like 'I have followed you everyday."

The stalker shook her head and pointed at me:

"Ayase, that stalker has tricked you!"

"— Stop lying… I… I will call the police!"

I never thought that Ayase would reuse that line in this circumstance.

Because I had heard that from her many times, so I knew how much it hurt.

But it didn't have any effect on this stalker.

"Call the police? Good — hurry up and call the police! Then we will know who is wrong and who is right!"

"……"

That girl… Something was off…

She seems to really believe that she was right. In that situation, if we call the police, she would be arrested and we could easily prove that her words are wrong

Because of her belief, she will not listen to anything we say. Instead, she might interpret it as she sees fit and use it against us.

"What? Hurry up and call the police."

"Oh….."

The normal Ayase would act the same way as she dealt with me or Mikagami by activating her personal alarm. But I can guess why she didn't. She didn't want to anger the stalker anymore so she was afraid of pressing the button.

She feared that if she pressed the button — the stalker would do something unexpected.

So she didn't. If the stalker moved, Ayase would activate it without a doubt. But after experiencing this strange atmosphere, Ayase couldn't make her decision.

"I… I really will call the police —"

But Ayase mustered her courage and opened her cell phone… Compared to activating the personal alarm, calling the police was something more natural for her.

Suddenly, the stalker rushed us.

"Ohahhhhhhhhhhh!!!!"

She roared.

"Ya —"

The sudden movement caught Ayase off guard, her whole body froze. I had no other choice, I moved my body in front of her…

"Look out, Ayase!"

The stalker's body collided with mine.

"Kuh…"

Although she wasn't as strong as I expected, she stomped on my foot —

"It hurts!"

Tears threatened to burst out. Although Kirino had done the same thing to me before, this was much worse. Was she wearing steel clogs?

"What the heck are you doing?"

"Shut up —! That's all your fault!"

She waved her hands and shouted.

"You… you… stop!"

She may be a girl, but a fully powered punch isn't something to look down on. Although I tried to resist, she didn't show any sign of stopping.

"Don't touch me! Disgusting! You disgusting male!"

"You… stop…!"

Maybe she couldn't stand watching me getting hit, Ayase moved.

So we gradually pulled each other to the stairs that lead to the second floor.

"All because you deceived Ayase —"

"I told you that is a misunderstanding! Listen to me goddamn it!"

"Wait a second! Please stop —"

"Shut up, pervert. Return the real Ayase back to me —"

She landed another punch on me.

"Er —"

I wasn't sure what happened but it felt as if my body was floating —

Crank crank crank crank crank

I fell from the second floor landing.

"Ahh!!!"

My ears didn't seem to work properly. I faintly heard a girl crying.

But all I saw was everything rotating, then a hard blunt sound.

My eyes went dark — then about ten seconds later, everything became silent.

"Kuh…!"

I felt pain for the first time. Although my head felt dizzy, I could still move. My right arm and leg were still hurting, but they were probably okay.

"Onii-san!!"

Ayase rushed to me.

"Are you okay?"

"Ah… Um… I'm fine."

I tried to answer as calmly as possible.

"…Are you sure?"

"I'm sure. There is no injury."

Hearing that, Ayase breathed out in relief. She fiercely turned back to the top of the stairs and said:

"— Is that how you intended to punish me?"

"No… I… I… I…"

Sayaka's voice was stiff…

She seemed to be trying to say — I never thought it would turn out like this.

…On the blog, she wrote that she wanted to punish Ayase. But it looked like she didn't have the guts to actually hurt someone. She probably wrote that during an angry moment… Even though we just met, I could guess her feelings.

"…!"

Sayaka turned around and started running.

"Wait…"

Ayase showed a rare overreaction.

"Wait a second! Stop running!"

She immediately followed.

"Hey, wait!"

But she didn't listen to me. I tried to drag my body after her.

After I got back to the second floor I found out that Ayase had caught Sayaka.

As expected of Ayase… As long as she wasn't afraid, she could easily subdue someone.

"You…!"

"Ya… Oh… I'm sorry…"

"Wait, wait! I told you to stop!"

I separated them from each other and yelled:

"Both of you calm down!"

"How can I calm down!? She pushed you down the stairs! There is no time, onii-san — Please hurry up to your examination."

"How could I leave you alone at this time?"

"Don't worry about me! To deal with this girl, all I have to do is call the police and have them arrest her!"

"You can't!"

Why do you always want to call the police?

"At least listen to her first."

"Wh… What?"

"Er...?"

Not only Ayase, even Sayaka was surprised at what I said. Ayase's eyes widened for a few seconds, then she said:

"You… are you an idiot! This… this — You are such a kind idiot! But today — today is not the time! What is more important to you? Me or the exam?!"

"You, of course."

She might have wanted me to answer the opposite, but I couldn't say that.

I couldn't believe that Ayase was still paying attention to this; she blushed and didn't say anything.

"That— That—"

"There is another exam next month. It's nothing compared to a friend in need."

"How… how could you say that? My tongue just slipped!"

"I know."

You wanted me to say that compared to your messed up situation the exam is more important, right? Of course I knew that. Both for me and Ayase, that exam isn't something that 'I can repeat it next month'. I'm carrying many hopes and responsibilities with me. I knew that better than anyone.

"— I never said I will give up on this exam. There is still enough time. At least listen to her reason."

"I… I told you that's unnecessary…."

I understand what Ayase means, she doesn't want me to be distracted. But I can't do that. That's just who I am, someone who is easily distracted by that sort of thing.

"I think we have misunderstood her."

— Return the real Ayase back to me…

I have heard something similar before.

"She is just a stalker…"

I was fully aware that calling the agency now would be the best choice — actually, the incommunicable situation just now was enough for me to call them.

But… right then, I didn't want to do that.

You could call that my last warning to her, but I still wanted to speak with the stalker.

"I — since last month, I always wanted to solve this misunderstanding of yours, the 'Ayase-tan, what are you doing'."

"…Did you see it too?" Sayaka muttered.

"Ah, sure. Well – then I remembered that one year ago – something similar happened."

"————!"

That got a reaction out of Ayase. She knew what I was talking about. Yes, that was when you had a falling out with Kirino.

"There were two girls that used to be good friends at the time… Because of a terrible misunderstanding, a great rift formed between them. Only after a long conversation, when both of them spoke their true feelings – could the situation improve. The misunderstanding was solved and they returned to being friends with each other."

"The situation back then is completely different from now!" Ayase protested. She probably wanted to say – don't compare my best friend with this unknown stalker!

"I know. It is different. But…"

During that year, I have learnt many things.

"If you speak your true feeling to each other, maybe the situation could be improved."

Yes. Until you try, you can't predict the results.

Even my hostile little sister had accepted that with a smile.

"So can you give it a try?"

I tried to smile. Ayase sighed.

"…I get it. Onii-san, you really are — too kind."

Actually, that wasn't who I was back then. Kousaka Kyousuke used to be someone who liked to live a normal life style, someone who only wanted to do everything his own way.

Really… I was wrong back then —

And so, Ayase, Ayase's stalker and I went into my room. Ayase kept looking seriously at Sayaka, while she looked down.

The atmosphere was tense and uncomfortable.

Both of them didn't say anything.

"Onii-san, the time…!"

"Don't worry."

I put my tea cup down and sat between them. This scene looked like a courtroom… I coughed and said:

"So…" I tried so make my voice as friendly as possible. "Let's begin with the introductions. I am —"

"Kousaka Kyousuke-san, right." Sayaka interrupted me.

"How did you know?"

"I have investigated…"

She looked down again and removed her sunglasses. She really is a crazy stalker, isn't she? But I'm not surprised. Ayase also made a copy of my key on her own . I raised my hand to stop Ayase from talking and continued:

"So, how much do you know about me?"

"Your name, your school, your age…"

"And my relationship with Ayase?"

"You are Kirino's elder brother."

I see. If she’s a fan of Ayase, she would surely know about Kirino.

But — the way she spoke sounded like a kid. Uhm, well, because it was hard to determinate her age. Just like Ayase and Kirino, no one would doubt it if I told them they were already in high school.

Sayaka spoke in a disgusted tone, 'And also…' before turning away.

"…You’re Ayase's boyfriend."

"No… I'm…!"

Ayase was about to deny…

"Wait. Let me do it."

I raised one of my hands to stop Ayase again.

"Okay, so you really did have a misunderstanding. Let's solve this first. Before that, can I ask you your name ?"

Although I knew that your internet nickname is Sayaka.

She whispered, "Kakei Sayaka."

"The same as your nickname?"

She nodded.

"Twelve years old…"

"You're still in elementary school?"

"…Is there a problem?"

"No… I just think that you are too tall for an elementary school girl…"

"I'm only 155 cm[14] tall..."

"What?"

Sayaka stood up.

— Er? Why does she seem so short now? She was tall just a second ago…

"Because I wore boots." Sayaka muttered.

I turned to the entrance… ah… her boots' sole is very thick. No wonder it hurt so much when she stepped on my foot.

"So… that's why you looked so tall."

"And this cap... too."

Sayaka slowly took her cap and sunglasses off.

I see… You put something on your cap too. A strange outfit and a fake sense of height caused a terrible illusion.

The scary-looking stalker turned out to be a small elementary school girl.

After I knew her trick, I saw a sudden light.

"Hey, why do you have to hide? You seem cute."

"Oh!!!"

I intended to ease the atmosphere, but it seemed like she was getting more and more angry. Sayaka put the hat on again and tried to cover her face as much as possible.

I continued:

"How do you know Ayase?"

"……"

But Sayaka didn't say anything. I glanced at Ayase; she replied "I don't know her." From her looks, she was still angry, although it was understandable. But Sayaka seemed like she couldn't believe what Ayase just said:

"Er……"

Having taken a blow, her whole body froze.

"This… I… I went to the same school as you…"

Sayaka sounded like she was about to cry. I couldn't stand it, so I quickly added:

"Are you one of Ayase's juniors at her elementary school —?"

Sayaka nodded. But Ayase shook her head.

Hm… Ayase's junior — but they didn't know each other, only Sayaka knew and admired Ayase — seemed that way.

"Let me make sure – you aren't Ayase's coworker in modelling, are you?"

With moist eyes, Sayaka nodded. From the look of it… she thought that Ayase would remember her.

That was a common misunderstanding. I had a similar experience of my own. Just like when I meet a friend from elementary school — after mustering my courage and speaking with them, I found out that they didn't even remember me. I thought that I was their good friend, but they didn't think so — it was a common mistake.

"If you aren't a model, how could you get her picture while she was working?"

"…I investigated her work schedule… and used a long ranged lens to get a picture…"

So you secretly took a picture from a distance? I'm not very knowledgeable about photography, but I never thought that you could get such high quality pictures from a distance. I should have scolded her because of that – but I admired Sayaka's devotion quite a lot.

"For an elementary school girl, you are good."

That might have sounded a little harsh – but I felt that Sayaka became much more stable. It was easier to talk with her compared to before.

She totally ignored everything I said when she was angry.

Alright, that should be enough. Time for the main topic.

"Alright, first, to solve your misunderstanding, I'm not going out with Ayase!"

Right, Ayase?

I glanced at Ayase and she nodded.

"But you have already had sex right?"

"Pfffff!"

What is that brat talking about?

"What…? Sex?"

"You really did it…"

"We have not!"

"We never did that type of thing!"

Both Ayase and I denied.

"But she comes to your house everyday — what else would she come here for?"

"For a reason, she came and helped me make meals and do housework!"

What the heck? Why did this brat think of such things?

Really, younger people seemed to have no ethical concepts.

"About that… well, you know Kirino right? Ayase came to my place everyday because —"

I told her everything, and Sayaka seemed to get the story.

"So you really aren't going out…?"

"Yes."

"But…"

She glanced at Ayase and said:

"Why was she jumping in joy on the way —?"

Before Sayaka could finish, Ayase's hand grabbed her throat.

She used just one hand.

That was as fast as a character in manga while fighting . With dull eyes, Ayase said:

"That is far enough, bitch!"

Wow, you even called her a bitch.

"Hey, hey! Hey, hey, hey! What are you doing?"

"Nothing… Nothing at all."

"How could that be nothing?!"

"I… I only wanted to silence her."

She sounded like she was joking, but I felt that she was ready to follow with her words…!

Ayase removed her hand from Sayaka's throat and raised one of her hands in a Manami-like lecturing pose.

"Anyway, that didn't have any special meaning. Stop talking about that."

"…Oh… Uhm… Okay…"

Since Sayaka didn't cough, I knew that Ayase didn't apply much of force.

And about 'jumping in joy' — I was interested, but I decided to leave it.

"So… does that solve the 'Ayase and I are going out' misunderstanding?"

"…Yes. I know that you two haven't had sex."

Looks like this is the most important detail for her.

Speaking with a middle school girl was hard enough, but speaking with an elementary school girl was even harder. Since they paid more attention to feelings rather than logic, their vision was quite narrow. They only see what they want to see.

Seemed like I needed to find out what she considered important in order to communicate with her.

I think that telling her stalking is bad is meaningless because she already knew that.

But — she knew that this was a something bad, but she kept doing it anyway for a reason.

Long ago — I knew that playing little sister based eroge wasn’t right, but I still played them.

Because… my little sister showed me too many ' reasons' for her to do that.

"You said you’re Ayase's fan right?"

"Yes."

I think this is the first time we looked directly at each other’s eyes.

"Why do you like her? Is there a reason?"

"…Of course I have one!" Sayaka suddenly yelled.

What she said next was probably important.

"My home is close to Ayase's home. Long ago, when I was a kid, we went to school on the same road team."

How long exactly was 'long ago'? You’re still a kid. But I didn't interrupt her.

Let me explain a bit about the road team. Elementary school students in the same area will form a road team and one third or fourth year student will make sure they get to school in time. For example, if the elementary school boy Kyousuke overslept, the team leader Manami would angrily run to his home.

It was a truly troublesome system.

"Ayase was my road team leader since I started elementary school, I had been going to school with her… she was so gentle with me…"

Nice ~ I wanted to go to school with Ayase-senpai too.

Ayase looked very troubled at Sayaka's words.

…Ah, she probably didn't remember.

"When I was bullied… Ayase saved me. She is my savior…"

She said that she cried a lot at Ayase's graduation.

Looks like your junior respected you very much, Ayase-senpai.

Gentle, dependable and beautiful Ayase-senpai.

That was what I felt when I visited that fanblog.

Aside from a senior in modelling — savior, good friend, classmate, good relationship —

Ayase once imagined Kirino that way.

She forced the Kirino in her mind onto the real Kirino.

Sayaka — wasn't she the same as Ayase back then?

Ayase broke her silence since the beginning and said:

"So you think of me as a beautiful, perfect senpai?"

"What do you mean, 'think of'? That is who you are. I'm Ayase's fan – after I found out that you had become a model, I was so happy. My goal is to help you as much as possible —"

"So why did you betray me?"

Ayase interrupted Sayaka. Then she looked at me with a self-mocking smile.

"Onii-san, I take back what I said. Although the situation back then is different from now… this girl is the same as I was. We were fooled by our illusion – so we did something foolish. I can't stand to watch anymore."

"What… what do you mean?"

Sayaka asked in anger.

Ayase stared back with her ice cold gaze.

"Sorry to destroy your illusion. Your version of ' Ayase-senpai' or 'Ayase' is just your imagination – Kakei-san, Kakei Sayaka-san."

"_____"

Sayaka's eyes widened, but she tried to counter:

"Didn't you want to solve this misunderstanding? You just told me that I was overthinking things —"

"Yes. We wanted to solve this misunderstanding. Although I feel it's unnecessary —"

She looked at me and continued:

"But this foolishly kind onii-san had decided to do."

Yeah, seemed so.

"However, even without that misunderstanding, I'm not your ideal Aragaki Ayase."

"No, it's wrong —"

"It's wrong? Your ideal Ayase-senpai had forgotten about her admiring junior in just three years. She bought an eroge figure for a specific reason. She hates lies, but she lied and used her friend — she even forced her ideals on her best friend and fought with her because of that. She even lied to herself and regretted it because she caused something irreparable…! She is that kind of hopeless woman…!"

Ayase's voice was getting louder and louder – and finally unable to conceal her anger toward herself.

Who is she angry with? Herself in the past, or…

"Actually, only the most self-righteous person could say 'I understand you better than anyone' — because no one can totally understand someone else."

"Ayase…"

Ayase paid me no attention, but she showed a painful expression.

"Kakei-san — Kakei Sayaka-san. If you really are my fan then take a good look at my real self. After this misunderstanding, see for yourself what kind of person I am. You should feel very disappointed because your ideal version of me is such a stupid girl."

"…I… I…"

Hearing her idol said that, Sayaka paled. Just like when Ayase heard Kirino speak about her true self. However, there was a major different compared to back then.

Unlike Kirino, who wanted her best friend back, Ayase had no intention of fixing her relationship with Sayaka. Or rather, her attitude was simply 'show me how disappointed you are toward the real me who is full of faults".

So uncomfortable. I can hardly stand it anymore.

I didn't jump into this situation to see these kinds of results.

"This is the end."

I clapped my hands together.

"_____"

Both of their eyes fixed onto me.

Wow, scary. You don't want me to disturb you that much?

So I tried to make my voice as gentle as possible:

"We should let this serious topic slide. I told you that I will solve the misunderstanding between you two, right? Don't tell me you want me stop butting in."

"But… but… onii-san…"

"Fine. Leave it to me."

I scratched the back of my head and walked to a side of the room.

To the cloth covered figure cabinet….

"You wrote — 'Why did you do that, Ayase-tan?', didn't you? Then let me solve your misunderstanding."

I pulled the cloth down.

The figurine cabinet was revealed for everyone to see.

The big, amazing, erotic figure that Mikagami made for me.

Is now imprinted into the innocent eyes of an elementary school girl —

"That… that!"

Sayaka's eyes widened. Her jaw dropped……

"Wahhhhhhhhhhhhhhhhhhhhhhhhhhhh!!!!!"

She screamed her lungs out.

"Ya —! Ya —! Wahhhhhh!"

She cried. The cap fell down, revealing her innocent face. She had long hair with two bangs extending forward.

"You, you… you… What do you want to do —?!"

Sayaka’s child-like face reddened as she panicked.

"Hmph…"

Ah ~ even though I swore that I would not sexual harass anyone again, I had to humiliated myself.

I was aware of the risk of a flying kick, but Ayase just looked at me in confusion. That was the second time something like this happened in front of her, so she could probably guess what would happen next.

That's right — this situation — is the time for Kousaka Kyousuke to show off his skills.

"See for yourself elementary girl! This is the reason your pure Ayase had gone buy an erotic figure!"

"I don't know what you are saying!"

"All of those figures are character from an eroge, ' Imouto-wife'."

"I don't want to listen!"

"Ah, I forgot. Actually, among Ayase's friends – there is an otaku who loves to play little sister based eroge…"

"I knew it! It’s you isn't it?!"

Actually, it's not… Well, but I have to lie in order to continue. Even if she misunderstands me, that's an acceptable trade…

"And then… Ayase wanted to check out those otaku's interests."

"Er —"

Ayase looked shocked, as if she had just heard something unexpected.

Hey… do you really think that I don't know? Why else would you buy that kind of figure? I'm not that dense.

"Ayase hated otakus, she felt that they were disgusting – her illusion of her friend was shattered, she almost broke up with her best friend because of that. But she treasured her friend so much… that she lied to herself in order to make up with her friend. "

Yup — just think about it for a few minutes and it will become very clear.

"I — I LOVEEEEEE MY LITTLE SISTER!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!"[15]

How did that kind of on-the-spot-lie deceive Ayase —?

Ayase should have already figured out that I was lying back then.

But even that – because she hates otaku, but she wants to treasure her otaku friend, she choose to believe in my lie. She had no choice but to continue lying to herself.

Everything is for Kirino —

"Onii-san. I —"

I turned to face Ayase:

"I thank you! Because I'm an idiot, I don't know how to say it… even if I could say it, even if I bow to you, it wouldn't be enough to show my gratitude! I thank you for what you did."

To express myself, I roared:

"— So why? Why do you condemn Ayase for that?"

I have to say it!

— To the big liar onii-san:

Because of you, I could make up with Kirino. Don't think that I have approved of Kirino's hobby, and don't think that I am withdrawing the opinions I presented the other day… but while I can't come to a compromise, and while I can't accept her hobby, I've decided to get along with her once more.[16]

"I… Of course I didn't approve of that! But even that… but this is a celebration… so this is a special case… Beside, if I give her a present, I want to give her something she loves… Also a while ago, I had a little talk with Kirino about… some non-pervert anime.[17]*"*

During this year, Ayase – had faced Kirino properly, and tried to understand her hobby.

She hates lies, but she forced herself to believe in a lie. Even it hurt her; she made a choice that was beneficial for their relationship. Both Kirino and I understood this point.

So — I looked directly into her eyes, and announced:

"Listen well. If anyone dares to blame Ayase because of that, I will definitely never forgive them."

That included you too.

"— Do you hear me?"

"…Uhm."

Ayase nodded slightly.

"……"

Oh the other hand, Sayaka bit her lips and looked down.

Since Sayaka didn't know about the friendship between Kirino and Ayase, she might not fully understand what I said.

But I hoped Ayase herself could understand that.

Just like how Ayase accepted Kirino back then.

"Actually… since Ayase just got a present from that friend of hers — so despite her hatred toward otaku, she went to buy that figure — that's the reason."

That was my guess. Ayase probably was going to give it to Kirino as a present.

I asked Sayaka:

"Do you understand now?"

"……"

"You wanted to see your ideal gentle senpai? She clearly hates otaku stuff — but she tried to understand her friend's hobby. Did that shatter your illusion about Ayase?"

"But — that… that's disgusting…"

"Don't worry; your blog is disgusting too."

"What…"

"If you want to be Ayase's friend, you could just talk to her. But instead you followed her everywhere, took her

picture and posted it on your blog, added some sweet lines. Don't you agree it's disgusting too?"

It's a legendary class pervert blog.

"You… you saw them all!?"

"Everything. I have read all of 134 articles of yours. For an elementary school girl's blog – it's quite interesting."

Although I didn't know that you are an elementary schoolgirl at that time.

Sayaka stood up and ran to me.

"…Pervert! Don't brag about my blog!"

It hurts when a pervert calls you a pervert.

"Oh… Wa… wahh…!"

She cried. Tears fell from her eyes.

Did you really start crying just because someone exposed your blog?

Still… I understand her feelings.

It doesn’t matter if it’s a blog or not, having someone you didn't expect read your work is embarrassing.

Just like having someone read your diary, it's not something anyone wants to happen.

That is the problem with privacy on the internet.

Someone who is familiar with the internet might not count, but a normal person doesn't have any skill to protect their privacy. Even for a high school student like me, making a blog is still a dangerous thing to do.

"…Wa… Wa…"

Sayaka started crying harder.

"Hey… Sayaka…"

Before I could voice my words, she kicked me. Did she want to vent her anger? Ah forget it… I was used to being kicked anyway — compared to someone's deadly flying kick that was nothing.

"That hurt! Hey, listen to me, Sayaka…."

I continued:

"Although what you did is wrong — I kind of like your blog. From the first time I saw it, I knew that you like Ayase so much. Beside, during these two years, you have become better at taking pictures."

At first, most of the pictures were blurry. With each new article, I could see how she tried to improve herself.

"Actually, that was because I used a cell phone camera at first. I just replaced it with a lens camera later."

"I know that."

I had read the post.

"Not only did you spend the entire of your lucky money and pocket money on that, you begged your father and got a 100 on the next test – that was how you bought the camera."

When I read that post, I could feel how excited you were.

Of course, that was followed by some other disgusting post.

But since that time, your picture's quality increased.

"I have downloaded every picture that you uploaded. The first time I saw your blog was a month ago — after that, I checked it everyday, hoping for new updates. Since I started studying for an important exam a month ago, your blog had become a place to heal my soul. So if I can pass this exam… it's partly thanks to your blog."

"You just said that it is a disgusting blog…"

"So what?"

I turned to the cabinet.

"Even if it's disgusting. Even if it's not good, there is no reason to look down on some else's hobby."

Because of your hobby, you might be punished. You might be rejected. But that's inevitable. But you must absolutely not look down on others' hobbies. Because that's the same as looking down on yourself.

And so…...

I still have to tell her my true intentions…

"I like your pictures. I hope that I could see them again ."

Ah… so can you reopen your blog?

After beating around the bush, I was finally able to say it.

"However, you have to apologize to Ayase for taking her picture without asking. Then ask her before you take a picture. She is a great model; it would be waste if you just secretly took her picture."

"But… but… I —"

"Do you hate Ayase now? Because your illusion was shattered — so you don't want to take her picture anymore? In that case…"

"No! I… My dream is —"

Sayaka hesitated before continued:

"I want to become a professional photographer and help Ayase!"

She finally spoke her true feelings.

"I knew it."

It was easy to see from all your posts on the blog.

"So — in order to let that dream come true, you know what you need to do now, right?"

"_____"

Sayaka looked me in the eyes and nodded.

She turned to face her ideal senpai — and bowed.

"I'm sorry."

That was a suitable apology for an elementary school girl.

Ayase placed one hand on her chest, and gave me a mocking smile:

"Really… onii-san… just how many times have you helped me already?"

"Just leave it to me. I will help you as many times as needed."

Although it ended with my useless style, since time was short I had to rush to the examination hall.

Ayase and Sayaka stayed behind in my room. I didn't know what they talked about afterward. But I think it should be fine. They could apologize and make up with each other. After the exam ends, I should ask Ayase about it. To be honest, I was hoping to see 'My Lovely Angel Ayase-tan Fanblog' tonight.

"Kyou-chan, over here!"

"Sorry, sorry!"

Manami was waiting for me at the entrance.

"It's fine ~ still… where have you been?"

"It's none of your business."

I smiled and replied. Just like usual.

And Manami returned her usual smile.

"It must be hard… Do your best."

"Actually, it's not that hard."

"…Really?"

"Yup. This time I only pulled a prank by showing an erotic figure to an elementary school girl and made her cry."

"Why did you do that…?"

Manami had a puzzle expression. But she quickly returned to normal.

"Let's go."

"Yeah. Oh right — before that, I need to go to the infirmary."

I showed her my right hand, without worrying about my image.

…I have no need to protect my image in front of her.

"Actually, I just had a little accident… my hand hurts."

"_____"

Manami's eyes widened, then she sighed.

She looked at me with gentle eyes:

"You're such an idiot."

Everyone had their own good and bad subjects, and it was different for everyone, but —

"…Why do we have English in this world?"

That was what I wanted to say after the exam.

Especially the listening test, it was so damn hard. And the writing test was already hard enough. I think that I'm not the only one thought that. But I was caught off guard because of how easy the Japanese test was.

Still, I think… it was… probably… okay?

I hope everything went well…

With mixed feelings, I left the examination hall.

After this, I'm going to participate in the same university exam as Manami. If things go well, then next spring we will go there.

"Are you okay, Kyou-chan?"

"Hmph? Aside from English, I think the rest is fine —"

"I'm not asking about that — wait, that's an important topic too…"

"So what do you want to ask about?"

"How is your hand?"

"Still hurts like hell." I replied. "I can't even hold a pen with it, so I had to use my left hand instead. Still, it didn't affect me."

Even though this is Manami, I couldn't help but tease her.

Because my hand hurt, I'm unable to get an A — I will not say that.

"So… then you should visit a hospital."

"You are right. Ah, Manami, there is something I wanted to tell you."

"What is that?"

"— Thank you. If I can get an A, it's thanks to you."

Of course the others also helped me… I planned to thank every one of them.

"But now isn't the time to say thanks yet."

You should wait until the results come out — Manami seemed to say that. Then she walked past me.

"I'm going back first."

"Hm, why all of a sudden? Do you have something to do?"

"Nothing — but I will disturb you if I stay here anymore."

She said something that totally didn't make any sense.

"See you later."

She waved her hand to me.

Hey, you clumsy girl, don't run. I won't care if you fall or not.

When I looked in the direction Manami ran —

I immediately understood why she did that.

There was a girl who was leaning against the gate.

"— You're here."

It was Kirino.

"How was your exam? Did you fail?"

That was the first thing she said. Was that how you greet your aniki who just had an important exam, someone who you haven't seen for a long time? This was the same as usual, but I couldn't help but smile when I heard that.

So I deliberately put on a confident attitude to respond to her:

"There is absolutely no problem — don't forget our bet."

"Yeah, yeah, it's just as you say."

Kirino was leaning against the gate, both of her hands in her pockets.

Today, she wore a wool cap and a jacket — I rarely see her in such boyish clothes.

Looking at her clothes, I realized that it's now winter.

"So, why are you here?"

"Ayase told me that you're hurt."

She didn't seem to be very concerned.

Hey Ayase, you don't have to tell Kirino everything.

"Hurt? What are you talking about?"

"Don't play dumb with me. Are you idiot? Still trying to put on an act…"

"Ugh…"

She’s so good at making me angry.

"Does it hurt?"

"Nah, I'm fine."

I showed her my bandaged right hand. She immediately gripped it.

"It hurts!"

What are you doing!

"So it does hurt."

"You, you…"

Kirino took a few steps forward then turned to face me and said:

"What are you standing there for? Shouldn't you go to the hospital?"

"……Yeah."

I grit my teeth and walked side by side with my little sister.

We walked in the cold weather… I suddenly asked her something totally unrelated.

"A year ago, you were writing a cell phone novel back then, right?"

"Yeah, so?"

What a cold reaction.

"And… Kuroneko came to our house to watch Meruru together and then you suddenly had a debut as a writer — And during last year's Christmas — you asked me to go to Shibuya with you as reference."

"I had already forgotten about that time."

"I see."

My breath turned into white smoke. It would probably snow soon.

"Say ~"

"What?"

"What do you have in mind?"

"What do you mean?"

"After your graduation."

"……"

Kirino didn't answer. I didn't force her.

Because we're brother and sister…

We kept walking in silence.

When we arrived at the hospital, Kirino finally broke the silence.

Still looking forward, she…

"Hey…"

Suddenly said…

"Yes?"

I turned my head to the side to take a better look at my little sister.

…Er? Was she that short?

I always thought that she was pretty tall for her age.

No — I was wrong.

I've gotten taller.

"Is something wrong?"

Hearing my question, my little sister looked up at me. She was trying to come up with a word.

For the first time, Kirino smiled.

"I want to say — it must be hard"

Hm… this girl…

"Thank you."

One month later —

The results came.

I, Kousaka Kyousuke got an A.

"Congratulations, Kyousuke."

"Hahahaha! It's nothing!"

In the morning, I was sitting on Kirino's usual spot in the sofa and speaking with Mom.

After I confirmed my results — I immediately rushed back home as fast as possible. I was so happy. It felt great when your effort paid off.

For me, what can't be done simply can't be done.

But there is something that I can do if I tried.

I think… that's normal.

I… have begun to think that way.

…I… got an A.

I'm so happy that I could cry… So embarrassing.

Of course, this was a mock exam. The true exam is still next year.

But — a sense of fulfillment has left indelible traces in my heart. Maybe I was exaggerating — but because that is who I am, I couldn't help but feel happy.

Because… it has been a long time since I last tried so hard — this success is an unforgettable memory.

"Mom, where is Kirino?"

"She went to a beauty salon together with Ayase."

"I see…"

What is she doing? I want to boast about my A with her.

"Oh right, Mom. I got an A. So was your inexplicable misunderstanding solved?"

"What inexplicable misunderstanding are you talking about?"

"That — the misunderstanding that I had a love affair with Kirino."

Even now, I still don't understand. Mom suspected that I had an impure relationship with Kirino, so she forced me to keep a distance with Kirino. But why did she allow me to come back if I got an A? It had no effect on my relationship with Kirino at all.

"Ah, you meant that."

Mom burst out laughing.

"Actually, I never thought that you had done anything to your little sister."

"— What?"

Did I just hear something unbelievable? I thought about what I just heard —

"What! What is going on!?"

I roared and stood up.

"Recently, your relationship with Kirino has improved. So under these conditions, I separated you two. By doing that, you – the lazy brother would do your best due to the power of your siscon nature. Looks like my plan worked out in the end."

Mom continued praising herself, "I'm so smart."

"Ha……"

You screwed around with me? Damn it! This is too much of an exaggeration! How can…!

So everything I did was within Mom's expectations?

"It was too much! Do you know how worried I was?"

"It's fine. You got an A because of it."

"Yeah, yeah!"

"Or what? Was there really something between you and Kirino —?"

"Absolutely not!"

What nonsense are you talking about?

"Ah forget it… I don't care anymore."

Feeling strength leave my body, I collapsed on the sofa .

"I'm going to the super market. As a present, I'm going to make a feast tonight —"

"Fine, fine."

Do you think I would forgive you because of that? Ah ~ maybe because I'll always be a kid in her eyes. Well, I think it's the same for all parents.

After she left for a while, the door opened once more.

I thought that she came back because she forgot her wallet, but it turned out to be my little sister.

"I'm home… Ah…"

Our eyes met.

"Wow…"

Kirino has changed her hairstyle. She now has brightly colored hair, with soft, fluffy hair tips. She looked so mature that I was speechless.

"What is with your hair?"

"It suits me."

"Sure it does."

"Ha? Who do you think you are?"

Kirino showed a mocking smile.

"In an RPG game, before you face the Demon King, don't you have to check your equipment?"

She brushed her hair and said:

"It's the same for me."

"What are you saying?"

I nonchalantly replied. Kirino sat down on the other side of the sofa.

On either side of the three seated sofa.

That is the distance between us.

Kirino glanced at me, then purposely 'Hm'.

"How is…"

She knew that I should have gotten the results by now, so I thought she was about to ask for them, but my little sister turned her head away.

"Welcome back."

She just said one short line. Nothing else.

About me – well, what I wanted to say at that time —

Ha… that scene has become familiar for both of us.

Kirino changed her hairstyle.

She wears fashionable winter clothes.

Back home after two months…

"Your new hairstyle suits you very much."

I said that to my little sister, who had an unhappy expression.

She quickly turned away.

"It makes me want to say, my little sister cannot be this cute!"

"Just die already —!"

She shot back. Of course, I couldn't see her face.

And so, my two months of 'living alone' finally came to an end.

It took several days to pack my belongings, until Dad got a break and helped me move back. Of course, the one that took me more time than anything else was the cabinet. I prepared a lot of smaller paper boxes for each figure — actually, that was Saori's suggestion, but it was so troublesome. I didn't actually like it, but this is a present, not to mention that Kirino wouldn't like it if I broke anything, so I had no choice but to follow through with it.

After two months, when I got back to my room, I was greeted with an unforgettable scene.

"Hey… Kirino…"

I was trembling at the entrance to my room. Behind me, Kirino calmly answered:

"What?"

"What is this place?"

"Your room, of course."

"This is my room?"

Don't blame me for saying that.

This room, which was once mine… is now filled with Kirino's personal belongings.

All of it is otaku stuff.

"It has turned into your room!"

"Because my room had no more places to put them, so it’s okay for me to place them here."

"It's not okay! Stop kidding me… The little sister took the chance while her aniki was away to steal his room is normal, but you have gone overboard…"

With teary eyes, I looked around.

"Ah ~ my room… has turned into this. The wall was covered with eroge posters… A new cabinet that holds only eroges, and a bed sheet that showed a naked little sister… Wh… what is with this curtain?"

This could be called a painful curtain. Just after two months, the curtain in my room had changed into 'an ugly sight'. Damn, Manami would laugh really hard if she saw this.

"Is it really okay to have that kind of curtain? If someone saw it from the outside, I would have to kill myself."

"Ah… actually I really wanted to see this…."

Kirino shyly scratched the back of her head.

I'm not praising you, you know? I'm definitely not praising you! Why are you acting embarrassed!

"Do you feel any guilt? Because of you, my room has been turned into this!"

"Thanks to me, your room has turned into an imouto-paradise."

I already saw it! It's worse than Mikagami's room.

Kirino pointed at a corner of the room:

"Place your cabinet over here, then put some figures inside ~ of course I will put some of mine in too. Oh hehee… this is my dream ~"

This is my nightmare! There is nowhere to put my table.

"Revert it back immediately."

"Er~?"

"Who could live in this kind of room —?"

Did I make the right choice of coming back?

"Phew, it's done."

I put the cleaning tool into my bag.

"……"

I had lived here for two months. For the first time, I lived alone.

Right now, my belongings had all been transferred home – the place was empty.

I intended to clean it up before returning the key to the owner.

"This was — not a bad experience."

At least I'm now better at studying. How should I put it… if someone had been by my side for the last few months, I would ask him 'hey, do you think that Kousaka Kyousuke has grown?' —

A year ago. Two years ago. Three years ago. Five years ago. Ten years ago.

Although I had grown, I didn't mean just my body. If the middle school student Kousaka Kyousuke — my painful youth which I don't dare to remember – saw the current me, what would happen?

But at least I knew that if I let the me from a year ago and the me from five years ago speak with each other, it

would have caused quite a mess because the differences in values, opinions, characteristic and personality would be too great. We are the same person, but we can't compromise…

Ah… of course that's just in my head…

The Kousaka Kyousuke from five years ago would tell the current me —

"My life finally entered a track."

The Kousaka Kyousuke from a year ago would tell the current me —

"Hey, are you alright?"

That was what my past self would tell me.

I have no way to ignore those words, just like I can't change my past.

"I will keep trying a bit more."

Saying that to myself, I left the room and locked the door. On my way down the stairs, I met Ayase. She was wearing a cute duffle jacket.

"Hi."

I raised one of my hands and greeted her. She nodded to me.

"Onii-san didn't seem surprised to meet me here."

"Because I got the feeling that I would see you here."

"……"

"It has been a month."

"Yes."

After the exam ended, Ayase didn't come again.

Since Kirino's request lasted only 'until the exam is over', so that was expected.

"Oh? Your hairstyle… Did you change it?"

"Ah, I can't believe the dense onii-san would notice that."

"Hey, I'm not that dense."

Ayase shot me a mocking glance then said:

"No, you are that dense. Haha, forget it, this isn't important. I'm happy because you noticed it — I went to the same beauty salon with Kirino earlier.

"Yes, she told me too."

"I only did a simple haircut. But Kirino has become much cuter, right?"

"A bit."

Damn right. Kirino is now super cute. Why did she have to go that far?

Ayase laughed and said:

"Onii-san can only voice his true feelings when she isn't around."

"Noisy!"

"Haha"

Embarrassed, I changed the topic.

"It's nice seeing you here."

"Do you need me from something, onii-san?"

"Yeah, I have something to tell you, I need to thank you, and lastly I have something to ask you."

Hearing that, Ayase immediately told me:

"Congratulations on getting an A, onii-san."

"Did Kirino tell you?"

"No – but I believed that onii-san could get an A without a problem."

"Well… I would be humiliated if I got a B…"

Of course, I'm happy because you believed in me.

I scratched the back of my head in embarrassment, but I finally managed to thank her.

"Thank you for your help."

"_____"

Ayase placed one hand on her chest.

"Onii-san, you earned it on your own."

"But that is because you helped me."

I truly believed so. I couldn't do anything big on my own. That is who I am. Sometimes, I even did things without considering the consequences.

"But I believe everything is onii-san's own strength. Oh right, onii-san, do you want to ask about Kakei-chan?"

"Yes."

She's sharp.

Sayaka's blog didn't update since that day —

"So how did it end?"

"I buried her body at the mountain."

"Hah?"

"…I hope you didn't take my joke as something serious ?"

Ayase said, "It's a joke," and knitted her eyes brows.

"…Ahahaha… a joke… ahahah…"

I thought it was a murderer's confession.

"Really… just how does onii-san see me? I took her to the agency to apologize to Mikagami-san, and I plan to bring her to onii-san's home to apologize and pay for the medical bill."

"Hey, my injury isn't that bad."

"No!"

It seems like Ayase-senpai is seriously trying to teach her junior.

"Did you two make up?"

"I'm not sure. For me, I only forgave her after I spanked her behind."

You already gave your punishment? So scary, senpai.

Ayase was smiling when she said she spanked her, she continued:

"But I still haven't decided what I should do with the blog."

"How about you turn it into your official fan page?"

"The content is so disgusting, I absolutely can't allow it ." Ayase said firmly.

"Oh right — onii-san, there is something I want to tell you."

"Hm? That is?"

Well, she did come here to find me, so I knew that you had something to tell me. Still, I have no idea what would make Ayase come find me — I prepared myself, but…

"……"

She didn't say anything.

She finally looked at me, and said seriously.

"Onii-san. You had already realized that I was lying — "

"Ah… so you meant about… that…"

"Although it's too late — but that day when I made up with Kirino, after I got back home and… sent that message to you, I had already understood everything… But I took advantage of your kindness… I made you into a villain… I even lied to myself."

— To the lying onii-san.

"I wanted to apologize to you — but I couldn't say it… "

"Don't worry about it. But… What about you?"

If you told me that, didn't that mean you couldn't lie to yourself anymore?

"It's fine."

Ayase smiled:

"Thank you for your concern. I knew that during this month, onii-san has been thinking about me. Onii-san hoped that I could convince myself, so that I could keep being Kirino's friend —"

"……"

"Was that why you didn't try to contact me?"

"…Actually I have some other reasons."

"Haha, I see."

She showed a profound smile, then reverted back to the original expression and said:

"In short — I'm fine."

Her voice sounded firm.

"I'm no longer that against Kirino's hobby… Beside, someday I will have to stop lying to myself. This is a good chance for that."

"I see…"

Suddenly, Ayase's expression sank.

"I'm very sorry. I have done so many horrible things to you —"

"That's fine. I did that on my own."

We were having a conversation that we couldn't have had in September, last year.

No… more accurately, I should say that we could only face it now.

"I have also lied to you, sorry."

"Please don't say that."

We both bowed to each other. After a while, she whispered:

"…Although I hate lies. There is another kind of lie… a white lie."

"Maybe."

Not all lies were out of malice.

"Ah, by the way, I still think that onii-san should just die because of your joke 'please marry me'."

"…Sorry."

Damn. She is going to settle that old debt now.

"Ah… it can't be helped."

Ayase sighed:

"Onii-san is a big liar."

Her voice suddenly became quite serious.

"Not only that, you are perverted, lewd, and also a siscon, lolicon and a huge masochist."

"……"

You don't have to say it.

When I was about to apologize — my body froze.

Because while scolding me, there were tears in Ayase's eyes.

"Every time we met, you sexually harassed me, made me angry…"

Her voice was trembling and getting weaker and weaker.

"You are such a kind idiot; you like to butt your nose in other's business."

She wiped away her tears with her sleeve, her voice firm.

"Not only you are dense, unreasonable and kind, but you always troubled me —"

"But that is the onii-san who I fell in love with."

Translator's Notes

1. ↑ A 'black history' is an extremely embarrassing and shameful event in the past that the person would much rather forget about.
2. ↑ Approx $5384 USD
3. ↑ Approx $985
4. ↑ http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Futon
5. ↑ A high school graduate who has not been admitted to a university.
6. ↑ A term for an insignificant, expendable person, usually an underling. [1]
7. ↑ Kanako speaks in 3rd person.
8. ↑ Also, more commonly, known as sticky rice.
9. ↑ Kamineko = Cat God
10. ↑ Seppuku is a form of Japanese ritual suicide by disembowelment.
11. ↑ http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Japanese_pronouns
12. ↑ Volume 1, Chapter 1
13. ↑ Volume 1, chapter 2
14. ↑ Approx. 5'1''
15. ↑ Volume 2, Chapter 4
16. ↑ Volume 2, Chapter 4
17. ↑ Volume 3 chapter 1